Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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FAMILY AND FRIENDS PRAY FOR HELICOPTER CRASH SURVIVORS

Jonathan and Ellie with Becky and Stuart

COLLEAGUES are praying for positive news on a newylwed with links to the Black Country following a helicopter crash that killed three other British tourists.

Jonathan Udall, aged 32, from Birmingham and whose parents are from Smethwick, was with his wife Ellie, 29, on the helicopter touring the US attraction as part of their honeymoon.

Both are fighting for their lives after the helicopter came down on Sunday.

Mr Udall was airlifted to hospital in Las Vegas where he was most recently described as critical but stable.

Three of their friends, brothers Jason, 32, and Stuart Hill, 30, and Stuart's girlfriend Becky Dobson, 27, were killed in the crash 60 miles northwest of Peach Springs, Arizona. Jason's girlfriend Jennifer Barham, 39, and pilot Scott Booth, 42, were also seriously injured.

Jonathan's father Philip, who now lives in Southampton, said the family were desperately trying to get a flight over to their son and daughter-in-law's bedside.

The survivors' colleagues have also released messages of support following news of the crash.

Gary Fowler, director of Retail Network at Yorkshire Building Society where Ellie is a development manager and where Jonathan is a regional manager, said: "Jon and Ellie are two well-loved colleagues and everyone who works with them is devastated about what has happened. We're staying in touch with their families and hope to hear positive news soon."

A spokesman for legal firm Bircham Dyson Bell, where Jennifer is a partner, said: "We are closely monitoring the situation and are doing everything we can to support her family, friends and colleagues.

"Our thoughts are with all those affected at this difficult time and we send our condolences to the families of those who lost their lives."

The group had planned the holiday a year in advance, flying out last Wednesday for Stuart's 30th birthday, two days later, as well as celebrating Jonathan and Ellie's marriage in November.

Sandra Hill, mother to the brothers who lost their lives, said: "Our hearts go out to Becky's family at this terrible time and we are praying for the recovery of Jen, Jonathan and Ellie."

Number of visits in month sparks student safety fears

10 POLICE CALLS MADE TO COLLEGE

POLICE were sent to a West Bromwich college ten times in a single month, prompting fears over student safety.

The visits were made to Health Futures University Technical College throughout January. They dealt with reports of four crimes, two incidents of disorder and five public safety alerts. One arrest was recorded.

The police incidents at the 600-student college were only made public after a Freedom of Information Act request. But a spokesman for University Technical Colleges attempted to play down the reports. He said some of the incidents that police were called out to 'probably' were down to problems outside the college, on the town's High Street.

He said: "Our primary responsibility is to ensure the safety and welfare of the students at our school.

"In accordance with our safeguarding policy, staff report anything they see or are made aware of that could impact the safety of our students or any member of the public."

Conduct

He added: "Our school is located on a busy High Street, and a number of the calls in the police log probably refer to calls made by our own staff about disorderly conduct very close to our premises.

"We will continue to maintain our robust safeguarding procedures so that all our students feel safe while they are at Health Futures UTC."

On the college opening, Robert Fell was appointed principal, but according to a letter sent out to parents he has had to step aside because of ill health.

James Harding is the acting principal.

By Alex Ross

The college is the first of its kind to offer students the opportunity to specialise in preparing for a job in the health service.

In partnership with the University of Wolverhampton and West Midlands Ambulance Service, students split time between traditional GCSE subjects and health and social care. Students are aged 14-19.

One parent, who did not wish to be named, said: "There have been numerous incidents regarding gang fights and police were called on one day because of fights outside of school.

"People need to know what is going on in the school as I believe the children are not safe.

"The staff keep the incidents to themselves so no one actually knows what is going on. I think it's time for parents to know the truth."

Pulling out stops for organ repairs

With the rescued organ, organist James Brookes, at St Peter's, Cradley

AN historic church resounded to the strains of a newly restored organ as a service of celebration was held to mark its installation.

Restoration work has helped to give the organ at St Peter's Church in Cradley a new lease of life.

Repairs were carried out on the 1933 cinema-style Compton pipe organ following a £7,000 appeal. A congregation of more than 130 – including one who gave £2,000 – attended a classical concert, performed by professional organist Richard Jeffcoat, on Saturday to celebrate the organ's return to working order.

HEARING

Anti-terror chief facing disciplinary panel over papers

A SENIOR counter-terrorism officer from West Midlands Police, fined by a court after top secret documents were stolen from his car, was appearing before a disciplinary panel this week.

Assistant Chief Constable Marcus Beale, aged 54, was called to a special hearing at the force's headquarters on Tuesday, to answer an allegation of gross misconduct.

He pleaded guilty to failing to safeguard information under the Official Secrets Act. Magistrates heard he left the papers in a locked case in the boot of his unmarked police car for five days while carrying out errands, including a pub visit with a colleague and supermarket shopping.

The briefcase, containing four documents, which included information about counter-terrorism intelligence and investigations, was stolen in May 2017.

Papers also included minutes from a high-level counter-terror meeting, counter-terrorism local profiles, details of regular organised crime and highly-sensitive information about a high-profile investigation. The Metropolitan Police, which investigated the case, said the documents were highly sensitive and related to national security. Beale was fined £3,500 following the breach.

Beale, who had until now enjoyed a distinguished career, gets a £119,000 salary, with a total annual remuneration of £145,000, including pensions and benefits in kind.

FOOTBALL

Chairman sacked at struggling Albion

STRUGGLING West Bromwich Albion have sacked chairman John Williams and chief executive Martin Goodman.

Albion are bottom of the Premier League, and, on Tuesday, the day after a 3-0 defeat to Chelsea, the two were placed on 'gardening leave' with immediate effect by the club's Chinese owner Guochuan Lai.

● Full story – back page

INSIDE

WIN PEPPA PIG SHOW TICKETS

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4,400 Carillion jobs saved in transfer

THE jobs of more than 4,400 former Carillion workers have been saved, with their transfer to new companies working on Government defence and prison service contracts.

But nearly 60 working on construction projects around the UK were made redundant this week, bringing the jobs toll at the collapsed Midland-based group to about a thousand.

About a third of Carillion's work was with the Government, and it looked after catering and cleaning at hundreds of defence sites across the country. The prisons services took over Carillion's work early in the liquidation process after the company collapsed last month. In a statement a spokesman for the Official Receiver said: "Arrangements have now been finalised to transfer prison facilities management and defence bases catering and cleaning contracts to new providers – and as a result we have been able to safeguard employment for a further 4,418 employees."

Carillion employed about 19,000 people in the UK when it crashed, with another 23,000 working overseas. The ultimate fate of the 400 people based at Carillion's Wolverhampton city centre headquarters is still unknown.

Most are working with the Insolvency Service and PwC, the accountants appointed special managers of the liquidation, on sorting through the contracts. The Official Receiver's spokesman added: "There is a lot of interest from potential purchasers in the contracts the company delivered which will see the number of jobs safeguarded continue to increase."

But he added: "Employment could not be secured for a further 59 employees working on paused construction projects and regrettably they will leave the business."

Meanwhile, Carillion's powerlines work for the National Grid has been bought by engineering and construction group Murphy.

Murphy will take over from Carillion working with National Grid on its planned replacement and refurbishment schemes on the transmission network spanning England and Wales.

● Hospital - page 13

Driver denies causing the death of teenager

AN UNINSURED driver had three times the legal limit of cannabis in his system when he struck and killed a 19-year-old student on his way home from a party, a court heard.

James Wilson, also 19, broke down when quizzed by police as it emerged he knew the victim, Charlie Heywood, describing him as 'a nice lad'.

Friend Ton Collins spoke of hearing 'an almighty bang' seconds after dropping him off near his home in Great Barr. They had been to the 30th birthday party of friend Connor Jordan's brother. Mr Heywood had been drinking heavily but was able to walk unaided said Mr Jordan.

Wilson, of Chudleigh Grove, Great Barr, hit Mr Heywood as he crossed the A34 Birmingham Road at 3.40am. He pleads not guilty to causing death by careless driving while under the influence of cannabis.

Maximum

Prosecuting, Mr Patrick Sullivan, told the jury the issue in dispute was whether Wilson's driving was at fault. Wilson admitted he had 'a few spliffs' of cannabis. A test found he had at least 6.3mg in his blood, more than three times the legal maximum. He claimed the victim had run out in front of his car leaving him 'nowhere to go'. He had braked and swerved but could not avoid hitting Mr Heywood who was thrown 80 feet by the impact.

The jury was shown CCTV footage of Mr Heywood alighting from Mr Collins' Vauxhall Astra in Pages Lane and walk up a bank towards the Birmingham Road.

Investigators concluded Wilson had been travelling at between 34 and 41mph. Further inquiries showed his Mercedes had earlier been driven 'erratically', either significantly under the speed limit or suddenly speeding up 'indicative of someone who has taken that much cannabis', said Mr Sullivan.

The trial continues.

Students go West for production

Calum Dearn and Emma Millinchip, Jaskaran Virk, Sophie De-Bear and Rohit Kumar

STUDENTS from George Salter Academy are bringing West Side Story to West Bromwich for the school's annual music production.

More than 480 tickets have been sold for the production, which began on Tuesday and runs until tonight (Thursday) in the Academy's Green Room theatre.

Josie Clark, head of drama, said: "We have got a fantastic group of 65 students from across the key stages.

"It is a fantastic opportunity for our students to display their wide-ranging talents and passion for performing arts. For us, West Side Story is timeless and has universal themes."

Ms Clark said they were attracted to the production because of its challenging choreography and 'dynamic musical score'.

Calum Dearn, 18, takes on the starring role as Tony alongside Emma Millinchip, 17, as Maria.

Musicians from the University of Wolverhampton will be collaborating with the academy to perform the score.

Past productions have included Les Miserables, Grease, We Will Rock You, Fame, Beauty and the Beast, Hairspray, Our House and Oliver!.

Supermarket raider told to go and get a job by judge

A CASH-STRAPPED 20-year-old has paid a high price for trying to settle a debt by raiding a supermarket.

Jordan Whitehouse was locked up for 15 months by a judge who advised him to get a job to pay bills in future.

The defendant was among three hooded crooks who broke into the Tesco Express branch in Hamstead Road, Hamstead, late at night on November 2.

The gang arrived on motorbikes armed with a sledgehammer that was used to smash a large hole in the shop's front window, said Miss Blondelle Thompson, prosecuting. The bungling burglars triggered the alarm while trying to prise open the shutters that protected the store's cigarettes. The raiders set off the siren and a cloud of blue dye, forcing them to flee empty-handed.

They left a tell-tale spot of blood by the tills which forensic examination disclosed a match with the DNA of Whitehouse.

Months earlier he had been given a suspended sentence after being caught red-handed while attempting to break in to a house in Chapel Street, Tipton, on April 4.

Miss Kamalpreet Shergill, defending, said: "He owed a debt to a friend whose bike he had damaged and was trying to get goods from the supermarket to sell for the required money."

She concluded: "He does not have issues with drugs or alcohol. He just got in with the wrong crowd."

Whitehouse from Cox Road, Coseley, pleaded guilty to burglary and breaking the terms of his suspended sentence. Recorder Ms Abigail Nixon ordered him to be detained and urged him to get a job in future.

Suspension for being too friendly

AN occupational therapist has been suspended for nine months after becoming too friendly with a patient.

Paul Perrett accepted he had crossed professional boundaries while working as an agency therapist for Sandwell Council. He was suspended by the Health and Care Professions Tribunal Service following a conduct hearing. It will be reviewed at a later date.

Between July 6 and August 23, 2016, Mr Perrett visited the client's home on six occasions outside work. He sent personal text messages, offered to make her a mix tape and invited her to his boat.

Crime victims' survey

VICTIMS of crime in Sandwell are asked to share their experiences in an anonymous survey. The study is being carried out by charity SVCO and is aimed at anyone who lives, works or studies in the borough. Call 01215251127 to take part.

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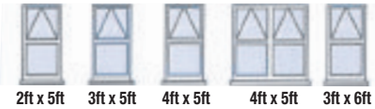

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Rambo knife attacker has term cut at appeal court

A TEENAGER who attacked his victim with a 'fearsome' Rambo-style knife in West Bromwich has had his sentence cut. But judges warned him to grow up.

The 17-year-old got four-and-a-half years in a young offender institution at Wolverhampton Crown Court on September 26 last year. He stabbed out at his victim in McDonald's in West Bromwich High Street, with a number of thrusts, at least two of which caught him.

The weapon was described as a Rambo, zombie or commando-style knife and the teenager – who cannot be named – was convicted of wounding with intent and admitted having an offensive weapon.

He had been part of a group robbery in which a victim had his mobile phone stolen at the restaurant the previous day and also had convictions for battery, the court heard.

But at London's Appeal Court, his lawyers argued that his sentence was too harsh. Sir Kenneth Parker referred to the 'fearsome nature of the weapon', but said the teenager 'seems finally to have recognised that his conduct, and indeed his whole value system, was fundamentally flawed'.

The sentence was reduced to three-and-a-half years. Lord Justice Irwin said: "When you are released, you will have to demonstrate that you have grown up."

Council job fraud accused in court

A FULL-TIME council officer accused of defrauding his bosses of £150,000 by holding down a job in the health service at the same time has appeared in court.

Peter Walker, aged 46, was employed as a people and talent development consultant by Sandwell Council whilst also working for the Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust as a counsellor, it is alleged.

Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Magistrates Court Walker began working for them in 2000, but in July 2006, it is claimed, took on a second job, dishonestly claiming he was carrying out his contracted 37 hours a week for the council. His job title switched in January 2013 and he continued to work in that capacity until September 2014.

Walker, of Vicarage Street, Oldbury, faces 11 charges of fraud over an eight-year period. He gave no indication of plea. District judge Michael Wheeler sent the case to Wolverhampton Crown Court for a plea and trial preparation hearing on March 8. Walker was given unconditional bail.

Campaign for road safety launched

Kamran Raja

A CAMPAIGN has been launched calling for safety measures on a busy stretch of road where a pensioner was killed.

Sandwell highways bosses have been urged to introduce traffic lights or a pedestrian crossing on Wolverhampton Road in Oldbury.

Edward Harris, aged 85, was killed after a crash at the junction with Castle Road East, near the busy Birchley Island, in 2016. His Honda Jazz car was struck by an Audi, driven by personal trainer Kamran Raja, who had been travelling at 78mph on the 40mph stretch of the A4123.

Mr Harris had been to church and was travelling home having dropped his daughter off.

Campaigners are now petitioning for safer crossings to be put in. Campaign leader Elizabeth Smith, 35, a Castle Road West resident for 10 years, said: "There are that many accidents there.

"I have got children aged four and two – you start doing the school run and going to local facilities and you actually realise how much you are putting yourself and your family in danger. Something does need to be done – the amount of support I have had already has been really good. I would like to make it a T-junction or a pedestrian crossing now."

Mrs Smith has left petitions in four venues and gained 500 signatures on her own personal copy – including that of a headteacher.

Petitions are available at Wernley pub, Warley Baptist Church, Lightwoods Primary and ABC Day Nursery.

Edward Harris

Talks as GP surgeries face threat of closure

THOUSANDS of patients could be affected under plans to close two GP practices in West Bromwich.

Health bosses have launched a consultation on the futures of Malling Health Centre in Parsonage Street and Malling Health in Great Bridge.

Both surgeries' contracts are due to end next year with officials now having to decide whether to put them back out to tender or close them. The two practices serve almost 9,000 patients and people will be asked for their feedback on the proposals.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), which is behind the plans, said there were seven GP practices within a mile radius of Great Bridge and five from Parsonage Street which 'may be able to accommodate' patients. However, the CCG has also acknowledged closing the sites could pile extra pressure on an already stretched health service and cause disruption for patients.

Future

Summerfield Primary Care Centre, in Winson Green, Birmingham, could also shut.

Launching the consultation, the CCG said: "Out of the four APMS contracts, three of them are due to expire on March 31, 2019, and we must now decide what the future of these practices should be in order to best meet the health needs of our local population."

On the possibility of closing the surgeries, the CCG said: "This option would mean allowing the APMS contract to expire and not procuring anything in its place. Patients would have to choose another practice to register with."

A spokesman said: "For each one there is an option to either reprocure the GP services at that practice or to close the practice and move patients to other local practices.

"Each one will be considered separately and as with any public consultation, no decision has been made.

"The contracts do not run out on these three practices until March 2019 but the consultation is happening now to allow time for reprocurement should that be the preferred option."

On Rhode for Ivy League placement

Lee Harding with Tracey Beach, pastoral leader for Key Stage 5, and principal Andrew Burns

A STUDENT at a Cradley Heath school has turned down a place at Cambridge to join an Ivy League university in America.

Ormiston Forge Academy student Lee Harding will make the 3,220 mile journey from the Black Country to take up a place at Brown University in Rhode Island in the autumn.

The 18-year-old, from Rowley Regis, will be the first in his family to go to university. He beat competition from 1,000 other applicants to land the place and a financial aid package to help with living and tuition costs.

The offer came after Lee, who lives with his mother and two brothers, took part in the Sutton Trust US Programme, run in partnership with the US-UK Fulbright Commission.

The aim of the programme is to encourage academically talented British students from low and moderate income homes to consider studying at American universities.

Lee is predicted to get three A*s in Maths, Chemistry and Physics and an A in Further Maths when he sits his A-levels in the summer.

He has turned down a place at Magdalene College in Cambridge to study engineering in America.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rise in number of dogs stolen

DOG thefts have risen by nearly 30 per cent across the West Midlands in three years.

Seventy-eight dogs have been stolen in the region in the past three years, new figures reveal. A Freedom of Information request found there was a 29 per cent increase from 2015 to 2017. Of the dogs stolen, 32 were taken from their owners' gardens.

Sergeant Matt Colston, from the West Midlands Police dog unit, said: "If a person is sure their dog has been stolen it is treated as a theft and a criminal investigation will take place.

"Detailed descriptions, including any distinguishing features, as well as photographs can significantly help us. It is a legal requirement that dogs are micro-chipped."

Demi announces Second City date

DEMI Lovato is set to bring her new tour to Birmingham later this year.

The Grammy-nominated, multi-platinum singer/songwriter will play Arena Birmingham on June 12 in support of her new album, which includes the title track Tell Me You Love Me and Sorry Not Sorry.

Demi's career began in 2002 when she made her debut as a child actress in Barney and Friends.

She rose to prominence with a role in the Disney Channel television film Camp Rock, and released her debut single This Is Me in 2008.

Care home plan at restaurant site

PLANS have been drawn up to build a new 48-bedroom care home on the site of a former Oldbury restaurant.

An application has been submitted to Sandwell Council for the development at the junction of Newbury Lane and Ascot Close. The land used to be the site of the Valentino Restaurant.

Two previous applications were put forward, the first in 2007 and latest in 2011, but fell through.

A council report said: "The proposal is for a new 48 bed care home with associated parking and landscaping."

Sandwell Council's planning committee will visit the site before making a decision.

Shopping centre picks its charity of the year

KALEIDOSCOPE Plus Group has been chosen as the charity of the year for New Square Shopping Centre in West Bromwich.

The West Bromwich-based charity promotes positive mental health across the West Midlands.

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Prisoner died of 'natural causes'

A PRISONER died from cardiac arrest after being admitted to hospital with stomach pain and sickness, an inquest heard. Jason Treymayne, aged 47, was an inmate at HMP Featherstone when he taken to New Cross Hospital following loss of appetite and generally being unwell on June 1.

Cannock Coroners Court heard how tests showed he had a 'rare intra-abdominal malignancy' and a family history of cancer. His condition deteriorated, but despite several attempts a 'diagnosis was allusive'. Mr Treymayne died on August 17.

Assistant coroner Margaret Jones gave a conclusion of natural causes.

Jazz festival shots on display

A COLLECTION of eye-catching photographs from the Birmingham, Solihull and Sandwell Jazz Festival 2017 is now on display until June.

Photographs, which capture some of the stars of the festival, are at six venues: Sandwell Arts Café, Central Sixth campus, New Street, West Bromwich; Central Library, High Street, West Bromwich; Wednesbury Library, Walsall Street; Tipton Library, Unity Walk; Blackheath Library, High Street; and Bleakhouse Library, Bleakhouse Road, Oldbury.

The Jazz Festival returns in July and more volunteers are needed. Call 0121 569 4904.

Talk on the real Peaky Blinders

THERE will be a talk on the real Peaky Blinders in the West Midlands.

Professor Carl Chinn is delivering the lecture in the Mockingbird Theatre at Birmingham's Custard Factory the creative hub in Gibb Street, Digbeth, on June 26 at 7pm.

He will be telling the story of the real gangs that terrorised people in the 1920s.

The professor will also be signing copies of his book The Real Peaky Blinders.

National Wedding Show held at NEC

THE National Wedding Show is taking place at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre from February 23 to 25.

The exhibition, which runs from 10am to 5pm each day, includes free DIY wedding workshops, a catwalk wedding fashion show and displays by top dress and cake makers.

There will also be experts on hand to offer advice on wedding planning.

Green light due on new free school

A NEW free school for 450 pupils was due to be given the go-ahead from council bosses this week.

Sandwell Council is set to award the contract for Shireland Technology Primary School which will help ease the pressure to find much-needed school places in the borough.

It comes as it was announced last summer that more than £10.8 million would be spent on expanding secondary schools in Sandwell – with an extra 275 places to be created at Shireland Collegiate Academy.

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) have agreed to work with the free school sponsor, the Collegiate Academy Trust, to agree an outline scheme for the project.

A council report, which was being discussed last night, Wednesday, stated: "The free school will provide 420 additional primary school places in Smethwick which will greatly assist the authority to meet its wider statutory responsibility to provide sufficient school places in the Borough.

"Sandwell Futures Ltd (LEP) have separately confirmed to the ESFA that, subject to cabinet approval and the council subsequently agreeing to award a contract to the LEP, that it is willing to work in partnership with the authority and the academy trust to deliver the scheme."

The report adds that costs of a building a new primary school are expected to be in the region of £4.5m to £5m.

But an estimate for the works will be confirmed by the ESFA once it has agreed a control option for the scheme with the approved free school sponsor, the Collegiate Academy Trust.

Driver who led police on 110mph chase is jailed

By Marion Brennan

A LEARNER driver who drove on the motorway at speeds of up to 110mph before careering off along residential streets during a four-minute terror ride has been jailed.

A police car and helicopter tracked father-of-three Clive Gordon as he sped for more than six-and-a-half miles – failing to stop at red traffic lights and busy road junctions, driving on the wrong side of the road and narrowly missing hitting other cars head-on, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The police pursuit started at around noon on November 1 last year as the defendant's black Mitsubishi Golf, reported stolen, left the northbound M6 at Junction 8 heading towards West Bromwich. Gordon pulled over when the police car indicated but shot off again, said Mr Ian Ball, prosecuting.

Weaving

He registered speeds of up to 110mph before veering off at Junction 1, weaving through traffic on the A41 roundabout and racing through Smethwick at double the speed limit.

He eventually stopped at an address in Handsworth unaware that the police helicopter was following him.

Gordon, aged 49, pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to dangerous driving, failing to stop and having no licence or insurance. The court heard that he had 64 previous convictions going back three decades, including two charges of driving whilst disqualified.

Defending him, Ms Lucinda Wilmott-Lascelles said Gordon had been due to take his driving test the following week and had sped away from the police car because he did not have a licence.

Gordon, of Northbrook Street, Ladywood, Birmingham, was jailed for 12 months and banned for three years.

Comedian traced by talent show scouts

Comic Tracey Rhodes, aka Our Trace, who has been scouted by Britain's Got Talent judges

SCOUTS from Britain's Got Talent have headhunted a Black Country comedian to appear on series 12 of the hit ITV show.

It comes after a video of Our Trace performing went viral online, viewed more than two million times.

Now the comic, real name Tracey Rhodes, could face Simon Cowell and his fellow judges on the BGT panel when the new series hits television screens in April.

The 55-year-old mother-of-one, from Four Ashes, near Wolverhampton, is in talks with show bosses but said she was perfectly happy with her life away from the spotlight. She said comedy had always been a hobby alongside her day job as a mental health link worker. But things have changed dramatically after a video of her performing in Birmingham was posted on Facebook.

She said: "They approached me asking me if I wanted to go on.

"I was amazed. I couldn't believe it. I did a show in Birmingham and someone videoed me and put it on Facebook. I looked on Facebook and saw all these comments come up. I was overwhelmed. It has been viewed in Australia, New Zealand and Spain."

She added: "I haven't got stars in my eyes. I've got my feet firmly on the ground."

Officers who intervened during row given praise

TWO police officers who rescued a battered woman have been praised for their actions, as the attacker was jailed for 14 years.

The West Midlands Police cops were on routine patrol at 5am in Birmingham city centre on July 3 last year, when they noticed the woman embroiled in a row with her then boyfriend Edwin Allen.

Concerned for her safety, they pulled over in Bishopsgate Street and walked over to the couple.

Allen backed away but was detained when the officers saw blood spattered across the 44-year-old woman's face.

A full examination in hospital later revealed the full extent of her injuries including a broken nose, neck and jaw.

Allen, aged 51, of Bellbarn Road, Edgbaston, was convicted of grievous bodily harm with intent after a trial and locked up for 14 years at Birmingham Crown Court on February 1.

In her victim impact statement his ex-partner said: "I really believe that if the police had not found us and rescued me on the morning of July 3 and Allen had got me back to his flat, then I would have died."

Inspector Cate Webb-Jones, who leads a specialist West Midlands Police domestic abuse team, said: "Allen left his then girlfriend with horrific injuries and she has had to deal with not just the physical – but also the psychological – impact of this.

"The support of these officers meant the woman was able to escape her predator and she then felt comfortable explaining how she suffered the horrific injuries at the hands of Allen earlier that night."

Say 'I do' to top wedding fair visit

ORGANISERS of a West Midlands wedding fair are offering the chance to win a luxury prize.

Brides who register for the event at The Mount Hotel in Tettenhall on February 25 will be in with a chance of winning an afternoon tea for two in the Drawing Room Bar and Grill. Go to www.wolverhamptonmagazineweddingfair.co.uk

There will be up to 30 exhibitors at the fair, which will feature all aspects of planning a wedding including venues, dresses and suits, as well as hair and beauty, cars, flowers and photography.

Anyone interested in exhibiting at the fair, staged by Wolverhampton Magazine, can email deana.jones@expressandstar.co.uk or leah.edmunds@expressandstar.co.uk

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Under-age sales scheme launched to help traders

A TRAINING scheme to help retailers tackle the risk of selling alcohol and cigarettes to under-aged people has been launched by Sandwell's trading standards team.

Believed to be the first in the country, the Responsible Business Scheme helps shops and their staff avoid the offence in the first place – known as the 'due diligence defence' in law.

More than 20 shops have already signed up and last Thursday, representatives from nine shops received certificates for completing training.

Public health chief, Councillor Elaine Costigan said: "Last year, our Trading Standards team carried out 82 undercover test purchases with 32 per cent of shops selling an age-restricted product to a young person. I would urge retailers to join the scheme and avoid being one of the offending businesses."

Mr Gurdip Bali, owner of Hilltop Wines in West Bromwich, and a member of the scheme, said: "Their help has been invaluable in helping us to ensure the shop is fully compliant with the law surrounding the sales of alcohol and tobacco and it has been essential in building up a good reputation within the local community."

Anyone interested in joining the Responsible Business Scheme should contact Sandwell Trading Standards on 0121 569 6584 or email trading_standards@sandwell.gov.uk

Aldi appeals over store plan refusal

A SUPERMARKET has appealed against refusal of a new store.

Aldi wants to build a new store in Old Horns Crescent in Great Barr. Last year, planning chiefs at Birmingham City Council threw out the plans.

However Aldi has appealed to the Department for Communities and Local Government. A decision will be made by a government inspector.

Oscott ward councillor Keith Linnecor said: "I am sad Aldi couldn't reach a compromise.

"I understand Aldi are offering 80 car parking spaces, and some new jobs will be created."

However, Councillor Linnecor said the plan would also see protected trees removed, which would cause environmental issues.

Passengers rise

BUDGET airline easyJet, which operates flights from Birmingham Airport, saw passenger numbers grow by 8.7 per cent last month. The airline carried 5.15 million on its flights over January.

Union vows to fight 2 Sisters closures

THE CLOSURE of 2 Sisters factories in the Black Country has been labelled a betrayal of loyal workers who have stuck with the company through thick and thin.

Union bosses have vowed to keep two chicken-processing plants in Wolverhampton and Smethwick open as talks begin with company bosses. MPs and officials at union Unite say it is a betrayal of their employees.

Around 500 workers at the two factories, which are earmarked for closure along with a third in Scotland, face losing their jobs.

The House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee held an inquiry into the food group's actions. It follows an undercover report that claimed slaughter dates were being changed to extend the shelf-life of meat at its West Bromwich plant and poultry was being put back on the production line after being dropped on the floor.

Unite national officer for food Joe Clarke said: "These plans have caused a lot of uncertainty and dismay for the workers involved. Unite will be doing everything it can to support our members and secure their futures.

"Workers who have stuck with the company through thick and thin and worked hard to make it a success will inevitably feel a sense of betrayal."

Wolverhampton North East MP Emma Reynolds said: "I am writing to the company to see if they will be putting on transport for any workers who are relocated to West Bromwich." 2 Sisters said the sites at Gallus House, Lincoln Street, Wolverhampton (site E), which employs 150 and Bevan Way, Alpha Business Park, Smethwick (site C), where 350 work, are ageing and unsustainable.

Staff employed at the Wolverhampton and Smethwick sites are being offered the opportunity to move to the West Bromwich site at Howard Street Industrial Estate, Hill Top.

A 2 Sisters statement said: "We are now discussing a proposal with colleagues to cease operations at both sites.

"We are committed to the West Midlands and making investment at the right time in the right locations."

£123k bill for firm that dumped waste in sewers

A FIRM in the Black Country has been fined £43,750 with £80,000 costs for illegally dumping waste including potentially harmful chemicals into the sewer system.

It is the third time in seven years that Arrow Environmental Services Limited, based at Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, has been convicted of this type of offence.

The latest case, heard at Wolverhampton Crown Court, brought the price paid for its repeated mistakes to around £200,000.

The court heard that on this occasion a broken membrane caused the filtration plant at the works to fail early in the morning, releasing up to three tons of waste into the sewer system.

A 'slam shut' valve installed to prevent this happening was not deployed immediately because the person monitoring the situation was away from his post on other duties for three quarters of an hour, the court was told.

Mr James Jesic, managing director of production for Severn Trent said afterwards: "Although we are very happy with the outcome, rather than having to take action in court, we would much prefer to work together with businesses to prevent any breaches occurring in the first place."

Recover

He added: "Our customers pay for damage to the sewer network and the treatment works, so it is important that we prosecute offenders in appropriate cases and take action to recover costs where possible.

"Arrow Environmental Services Limited is advertised as a specialist waste disposal company, whose customers include, according to their website, 'public sector organisations and local Government, through to some of the UK's best known brand names, which include the construction and demolition industry.'

"The judge found that they had failed to keep promises to both us and the Environment Agency to invest in their plant and had deliberately failed to put in place systems that should have been there to avoid the offences."

The firm was convicted of discharging trade effluent without consent or authorisation.

Farm over the moo-n at new arrivals

Seen with Rosie the Jersey cow is is farm apprentice Abbie Kiteley from West Bromwich

THREE new Jersey cows have moo-ved in at Sandwell Valley's Forge Mill Farm to the delight of visitors.

Rosie, Victoria and Holly can be seen being milked at the West Bromwich attraction every day at 11am.

The cows, on loan from Sheldon Country Park, produce around seven litres each a day – which should soon be on sale at the farm shop.

Cabinet member Councillor Paul Moore said: "The Jersey cows are another great addition to Forge Mill Farm.

"We have some more new arrivals on the way as we have sheep, goats and pigs on the farm about to give birth. Spring is a great time to visit both Forge Mill and Sandwell Park Farms."

Admission to Forge Mill Farm is free, with a small charge for admission and some activities during school holidays.

The farm also offers educational visits for schools aimed at Key Stages 1 and 2.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dalian inquiries near completion

AN investigation into former Villa footballer Dalian Atkinson's death could be over within a few weeks.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) is awaiting a report from a medical expert before bringing the case to a conclusion.

The investigation had been delayed after forensic evidence linked to the case was found to have been compromised. A pre-inquest hearing into Mr Atkinson's death was set to take place on February 6 but has been delayed to June 5.

Mark Pearson, from the IOPC, said: "We are awaiting a report from a medical expert in the next few weeks."

11 arrests made in crime crackdown

ELEVEN people were arrested during a two-day operation aimed at disrupting criminals in Birmingham.

Police made arrests for offences including car-jacking, drug-driving and burglary, while a large cannabis factory was discovered at a house on Calshot Road, Great Barr.

Officers had initially stopped a suspected stolen car on Rookery Road and following searches of those inside raided the address.

Automatic number plate recognition cameras were used to alert officers to vehicles linked to crime.

Boat race back on Birmingham canal

DRAGON boat racing returns to Birmingham city centre on June 16.

Businesses from across the city are entering teams in the faces along the Birmingham and Worcester Canal at Brindleyplace in 20ft traditional Chinese boats to raise funds for charity Cure Leukaemia.

The race will also form part of a new family festival for the first time this year. There will be live music, street dancing and a family trail.

The boat race has been held for 19 years and is one of Brum's most successful annual fundraising events.

Residents can have say on quality of air

RESIDENTS are being asked for their opinions on how air quality in Sandwell can be improved.

The council has launched a consultation on its draft air quality action plan – allowing residents, communities and businesses to have a say.

The air quality action plan consultation runs until May 1.

To read the draft plan and fill in the survey, go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/airquality

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Words that just add up to a lot of confusion

STRANGE how words that have been in common use for centuries are suddenly used to mean something completely different.

For example, until last week I had pretty firm ideas of what farmers and miners did. Farmers produce food – you know, growing crops, tending to animals, that kind of thing. And miners? They go on strike. And in between strikes they dig beneath the ground for coal, gold, or whatever. I'm fairly certainly they don't set fire to tower blocks.

Yet last week, a Russian website said a huge fire in a Vladivostok tower block was caused by a computer nerd 'mining' for Bitcoins.

"Officers intervened and shut down the illegal farm," it said.

Apparently, mining for Bitcoins involves solving lots of very complicated equations, which overloaded Mr Nerdovitch's computers. In what sounds like a particularly bad episode of Doctor Who, the mathematical processes caused a power surge, sending the flat up in flames. Who knew Bitcoins were so dangerous?

❒❒❒

ANOTHER word which seems to change definition depending on context is "exciting". In everyday conversation, I think I know what it means. But whenever it is used by local government, it seems to take on a very different definition.

Take, for example, the announcement by Dudley Council that 13 months after handing a five-year lease to the Dudley Hippodrome friends group, it will be terminating the agreement.

Council leader Patrick Harley said: "We will be looking to draw up some exciting plans for the site."

I think we all have an idea of what "exciting plans" involve. A new theatre or opera house. A major tourist attraction, on the scale of the Patrick Motor Museum which was due to come to Dudley 16 years ago, before local politics got in the way. That would be exciting.

The problem is some of the other "exciting" plans the council has put forward for the site in the past. First, it was a temporary pay-and-display car park. Then there was a metal-framed conference room then a block-paving scheme. Now the word is, if the Hippodrome is demolished, the site will be used for yet another college building. I doubt if even the students are excited about that.

I have no idea whether the Hippodrome friends have a viable plan, or indeed why the council bought the building in the first place. But until someone comes up with something more "exciting" there's surely no harm in giving them a chance.

Why pardon Suffragettes for crimes they were proud of?

Anthony Bangham – accused of planning to nick motorists at 1mph over limit

Jacob Rees-Mogg – says he is a weed but beware that he has never learned to box

Shaun Evans – has about eight years to morph into somebody resembling Morse

They rejoiced in breaking the law

THIS week's centenary of Votes for Women has been accompanied by much playing of the Suffragettes' song March of the Women by Ethel Mary Smyth. From time to time we moan about our dirge-like National Anthem. Well, here's a ready-made replacement, although some of Cicely Hamilton's lyrics might need changing. " Cry with the wind, for the dawn is breaking" sounds like a medical condition but you can't argue with the splendour of: "Open your eyes to the blaze of day."

THERE are calls to pardon Suffragettes who planted bombs, committed arson and smashed windows in the campaign for Votes for Women. Leave well alone. The Suffragettes rejoiced in breaking the law. They boasted of the number of times they were force-fed, like a badge of honour. What right have we, 100 years later, to pardon them for crimes they were proud to commit?

ADVICE to balaclava-wearing urban warriors considering squaring up to the likes of Jacob Rees-Mogg. Don't. Rees-Mogg, who confronted a bunch of offensive protesters at a university debate, says he is an utter weed. I am reminded of the weedy public schoolboy who was on a farm-management course I attended many years ago. He was the only one of us with a car and one night another student, a big, tough rocker with a fringed leather jacket, said it would be a big laff to steal the weedy kid's car for a joyride. He (the rocker) turned up for breakfast the next morning with a bloody nose and a black eye. Turned out the weedy kid, who had caught him in the act, was the all-England public schools flyweight champion. They may look inoffensive but a lot of public school boys do something the rest of us never do. Boxing.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

NO sooner had the Daily Mail accused West Mercia's chief constable Anthony Bangham of planning to nick motorists at 1mph over the speed limit than the back-pedalling began. The National Police Chiefs Council insisted Mr Bangham had not called for punishment for going 1mph too fast. Much relief all round. Enforcing the law in such a draconian, zero-tolerance fashion would be stupid and quite unworthy of any British constabulary.

LAWYERS are preparing cases to prove that women employees of Tesco are doing "work of equal value" to male employees in different jobs, and deserve to be paid the same. This follows the Birmingham City Council campaign where school dinner ladies were judged to be of equal value to binmen and received pay rises and back pay. It has so far cost the council more than £1,000 million. Tesco could be ordered to pay £5,000 million. The case I am longing to see is that of Anna, the minimum-wage cleaner in a large legal practice specialising in employment law. While Anna has no legal qualifications, she keeps the place tidy, disinfects the kitchen and loos and washes the mugs. She provides a clean environment allowing the partners to work in safety. And one day a judge rules that, although Anna's work is very different from that of the lawyers, it is "of equal value" and she therefore deserves the same pay as the average barrister in the practice. Anna gets an immediate rise of £200,000 a year and £5 million back pay. Strangely enough, her bosses do not stand outside the High Court and claim this is a great victory for equal rights.

IN Endeavour (ITV), Shaun Evans plays the 'young' Inspector Morse. As the new series begins, Evans is 37. Inspector Morse was first screened in 1987 when John Thaw (Morse) was 45. Which means Evans has about eight years to successfully morph into somebody resembling John Thaw, or risk being denounced by one of the older Morse's colleagues at Cowley nick. "Hang on, pal. I knew Morse in his 40s and he was nothing like you . . ." Impersonating a police officer, eh?

A READER draws my attention to "energy shots," which come in tiny 60ml bottles at health shops and promise to "boost your focus." He says the price works out at £31 per litre - more than a bottle of malt whisky. True enough. On the other hand, no-one ever claimed that pure malt boosted anything, with the possible exception of the pub's profits. Another 40-year-old Glenfuddle, sir?

A READER writes: "What the hell has identity to do with leaving the EU?" Seriously? Can some people really not see the difference between the UK as one of 28 members of a political bloc governed from Brussels and the UK as an independent nation governed from Westminster, making its own trade deals, passing its own laws and guarding its own frontiers? What a fine job the EU propaganda ministry has been doing. Meanwhile, the recent threats from Brussels to punish Britain in the transition period are a reminder, if we needed it, that the EU is not a big, jolly, benevolent organisation but a hard-nosed capitalist federation, hell-bent on preventing any other states from quitting.

TALKING POINT

Trying for a baby? Do NOT watch the soaps

IT'S heartbreaking. I feel so sorry for the millions of women desperate to have a baby – that awful feeling when you have been trying for so long and nothing happens. Sometimes there does not even seem to be a medical explanation.

And while they struggle on, with every month bringing new hope of that longed-for baby, only to have their hopes dashed, it seems that all around them – friends, relatives or colleagues – are announcing their happy news.

There are smiles on their faces as they express their congratulations but they are no doubt eaten up with jealousy.

Everywhere, they see babies, buggies, smiling children. It is so hard. And many pay out thousands to go through round after round of IVF which end in failure and more heartbreak and a very sorry-looking bank balance.

People think that babies can be planned – best time to suit your lifestyle, finances, new home etc – but it does not work out that way for everyone.

You may wonder why I am writing about this. The answer is TV soaps. These just add insult to injury for these poor women. I just hope that they don't watch them, because they just pile on the misery.

In these soaps, it seems that a reckless one-night stand means an instant pregnancy. How hard that must be for the women who have been trying for months or even years and are in a committed relationship, or the woman who has just returned from hospital recovering from a miscarriage – do you ever really recover?

Why do the soaps have to use this storyline, if you can call it that, so many times? Surely they should be advocating the importance of using some sort of protection. It seems totally irresponsible.

When dealing with any other sort of medical or emotional problems, there is normally a message at the end of the programme: "If you've been affected by this storyline you can call . . . ".

But with the pregnancy storylines, there is nothing to bring any help or comfort to all the would-be mums they have upset. This is possibly a medical and definitely an emotional problem and should be recognised as such.

And maybe another warning to viewers – if you are going to have a quick bit of unplanned fun, probably with someone you shouldn't, then you should be aware of the risks of an unwanted pregnancy. Or maybe just give the 'fun' a miss.

We teach our children to be responsible and the soaps' attitude is not one they should be having thrown at them over and over again. Scriptwriters take note – you are causing a lot of misery.

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Faith in BBC lost after Radio 2 changes

IT has saddened me to learn of changes to the BBC Radio 2 schedules. Two excellent shows are going, namely The Organist Entertains and Listen to the Band. These changes are to attract younger listeners (who already have Radios One and Six). I dare say that some people regard these shows as minority interest, but we who enjoy such music pay our licence fees and expect our interests to be represented.

At one time Radio 2 was a station of great interest, and full of good music presented by excellent personalities. People who were not up to classical music found their niche there, especially through such shows as Friday Night is Music Night. Now much of the station's output could best be described as mush. I have lost faith with the BBC. It is about time it stopped reflecting the banality of what we call society and offered real choice without worrying about audience figures otherwise it will cease to be something we treasure. Narrow mindedness is fine in politics, but not in a paid for broadcast service (the pot boilers which it tries to pass as TV drama are past belief).

MR C K MILLWARD
Tipton

Teenagers struggling with injury

I AM writing about a new handbook entitled Me and My Brain, that has recently been launched by The Children's Trust for teenagers affected by brain injury.

Being a teenager can be a difficult time with lots of change and decisions to be made. For teenagers with a brain injury these difficulties can be heightened.

Me and My Brain has been written with the help of young people affected by the condition as well as health professionals who specialise in childhood brain injury. It provides advice and guidance on key topics such as bullying, driving, alcohol and education, alongside real life experiences from teenagers.

The handbook is also recommended for family members, teachers, carers or colleagues, providing a detailed explanation of brain injury and how the disability, which is often described as hidden, can effect young people's day to day lives.

MARIA COYLE
Information Manager
The Children's Trust

Combined authority is a waste of money

WITH councils struggling for cash surely this is a time to cut out waste not set up yet another money-gobbling monster, super-council.

Whilst we had a mayoral vote and I feel the best candidate won, there should have been a referendum on whether to have a combined authority at all. With the knowledge that the cost for the Black Country alone would be £50m for the first year I am certain the voters would have rejected it.

Another potential waste of money is the metro line from Walsall to Merry Hill. Surely it is better to encourage local shopping rather than provide a highly expensive tram system. Any other effect of this line is only likely to be minimal. Hardly any of the stops would have the potential to attract passengers. Even Dudley Port would not live up to its expectations.

MR J SAUNDERS
West Bromwich

Cars used as weapon

I AM glad to see that our politicians are looking positively into doing something about the continuing carnage caused by dangerous and drunken drivers.

These people, in some cases, give the proverbial finger to the judiciary.

It's time the law was changed, to reflect the enormity of the crime.

Anyone causing death whilst driving should be charged with murder, or at the very least manslaughter.

Drink-drivers and speeders are using vehicles as a weapon, they get behind the wheel when intoxicated, drugged up or just speeding for speeding's sake which is no different to someone using a knife, gun or blunt instrument.

In 2016 there were 449 deaths caused by these people, the majority getting of a fine or a light prison sentence.

Let's not see another family grieving for a loved one, change the law now! It could be someone you know.

KEITH V JOYCE
Wednesbury

Stand Bayeux for art move

TRAVELLING through the Black Country, Queen Victoria famously shut the blinds of the Royal Train. Now I see Sion Simon is calling for the French tapestry to be shown at Coventry Cathedral.

I suggest the Art Gallery at Wednesbury, which is the capital of Sandwell.

That will ok by me, if it is ok 'by you' (Bayeux).

ROBERT W WHITE
Wigmore

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78 frontline officers axed in police support staff move

WEST Midlands Police is to spend an extra £10 million on office staff – while axing 78 frontline officers. The force budget for the 2018/19 financial year reveals support staff pay will increase from £98.1m to £108m.

But spending on police officers will fall £317,000 to £352.5m – and the number of officers will drop 78 to 6,450. It comes as crime across the region continues to rise with latest figures showing a 14 per cent increase in one year.

The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson is behind the budget.

It also includes an average £12 rise in council tax precept for residents in the West Midlands to increase the overall budget to £548.1m. Mr Jamieson said the rise in support staff spending was required to cover annual increases in salaries.

He said the force was also recruiting more specialist officers over the next two years to deal with fraud and cyber crime. But the move to cut spending on police officers has been slammed by Walsall MP Eddie Hughes.

He said: "It seems crazy to me – people in the Black Country are angry that the PCC is increasing their council tax and in return, they are going to see little benefit from it."

This week the Police Grant Settlement for the force was approved, resulting in a £12.5m loss in funding for the force for 2018/19. In response to this, the council tax precept was increased as part of budget.

The £12 rise in Band D council tax precept is the maximum allowed and is up from the previous limit of £5 a year.

It will pay for 100 new police officers over the next two years – but due to officers leaving the force, the total number will still decrease.

Jail for thug who helped beat up man

A THUG who helped to beat up a man who owed a £15,000 drug debt has been jailed for 26 months.

Nayyid Mohammed joined two others in the assault after the gang went to the building site where the victim was working, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. The 22-year-old was not the person to whom the money was owed and played a 'lesser role' in the incident, ruled Judge Simon Ward who said: "You were recruited and you were happy to go along."

Whilst on bail for this offence the defendant rammed a police patrol car that had pursued him after he was spotted swerving from lane to lane.

Mohammed of Marshall Street, Smethwick, admitted causing grievous bodily harm and driving dangerously with neither valid licence nor insurance.

Street sees school's strides first hand

Andy Street joins pupils from Glebefields Primary School on their daily commute as part of the WoW scheme

THE West Midlands mayor put his best foot forward when he joined pupils to walk to school. Andy Street strolled alongside youngsters on their daily commute in Tipton to celebrate the strides they have made to get healthier by walking to school.

He joined pupils and parents from Glebefields Primary School on the walk to hear first-hand about their journey. The youngsters take part in WOW (Walk Once a Week), a year-round walk to school challenge with charity Living Streets. The challenge rewards children who walk to school at least once a week with collectable badges. It has been shown to boost walking rates by 23 per cent.

Mr Street said: "I'm thrilled to have joined families on their walk to school and to celebrate the achievements of these pupils. It's great to see the impact Living Streets' work is having with so many children taking to their feet. The West Midlands has one of the highest rates of obesity in the country – around 40 per cent of children here leave primary school overweight – and walking more is a great way to help tackle this.

"I want more schools to follow in the footsteps of the pupils at Glebefields Primary School and swap four wheels for two feet for the journey to school and start experiencing the benefits of walking more."

Winter tips to keep the elderly warm

COUNCIL chiefs have joined a campaign to help the elderly and those with long-term conditions during colder weather.

Sandwell Council is supporting the national Stay Well This Winter campaign. The authority says there are a number of things which can help people over 65 or with long-term health conditions during the winter.

It is important for people at risk to keep warm, both inside and outdoors in a bid to prevent colds, flu and more serious health problems such as heart attacks, strokes, pneumonia and depression. Heat homes to at least 18°C (65°F), with the living room being slightly warmer if preferred.

At the first sign of a cough or a cold, they are advised to seek help from a pharmacist before it gets more serious. Check about getting medicines in stock.

The Stay Well This Winter campaign is a joint initiative from NHS England and Public Health England.

Councillor Elaine Costigan, Sandwell's cabinet member for public health and protection, said: "We want all our residents to stay warm and keep well this winter."

For more information call 0121 552 0563 or 0800 033 7967 (freephone) or send an email to enquiries@warmzones.co.uk

New home for fostering agency

A FOSTER care agency, which has contracts with 14 local authorities including Dudley, Sandwell, Staffordshire and Walsall, has expanded into new premises in Bromsgrove.

Children Always First has taken 2,600 sq ft at Ladybird Barn, Old Burcot Lane, moving from rented offices in the town.

Mat finish! Subbuteo figure tribute to Regis

WEST Bromwich legen Cyrille Regis has been immortalised with special edition Subbuteo figures handmade by a talented Baggies fan.

The new figures are Paul Ridler's personal tribute to the legendary Albion number nine who died last month from a suspected heart attack at the age of 59.

There was an outpouring of grief for the player, who won the FA Cup with Coventry City and also played for Aston Villa and Wolves and won five England caps.

Thousands of supporters, former players and managers attended a memorial service at The Hawthorns following a private family funeral.

Mr Ridler is donating the proceeds of any sales to charity.

Cyrille Regis in familiar pose

Figures of Albion's Three Degrees

Paul's great-grandfather Billy Bassett

Jonas Olsson in Subbuteo form

Degrees

The 41-year-old has made one of his hero in familiar pose smashing home a goal while another shows him with Albion team-mates Brendan Batson and the late Laurie Cunningham – who were famously known as the Three Degrees.

Mr Ridler, the great-grandson of England and Albion legend Billy Bassett, makes the wooden miniatures from his home in Oxfordshire and posts pictures on Twitter @subbute olegends.

He has been making and selling them for the last year and has captured classic moments like Maradona's Hand of God moment against England in the 1986 World Cup and Eric Cantona's famous kung-fu kick on a fan.

But it's the Albion figures that hold a special place in his heart. Other Baggies creations include one of former Hawthorns favourite Jonas Olsson celebrating his goal against rivals Wolves in a 5-1 win during 2012. He has also made one of his great-grandfather in his England kit.

Bassett won 16 England caps, later becoming director of Albion in 1905 and then chairman in 1908. Mr Ridler said: "I started about a year ago – I had lots of Subbuteo figures from my childhood. I did not want to make money on the Cyrille Regis one and the money went to the Water Aid Charity. If I was solid working it would take me about three hours.

"I have got to do one coat of paint at a time and I usually charge £25 a piece."

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Growing business is clearly a favourite with its customers

Claire Stockley (Sales) and Dan Butcher (Business)

Commercial feature

MARKET leading Stourbridge double glazing business Carera Windows has fitted more than half a million quality windows and doors over the past 28 years.

The company based in Junction Road, Audnam, started out 28 years ago to serve the Stourbridge area but as it has grown it has moved on to serve neighbouring areas including Halesowen, Kidderminster, Bromsgrove and Worcester.

The business moved to its present base 20 years ago. Carera offer a full range of windows and doors and also install a full range of conservatories, orangeries and living spaces.

Happy

The company prides itself on having a depth of knowledge in all aspects of the products it offers and industry regulations. The company is fully conversant with all current regulations within the industry. A key aim is to provide a level of customer service that is second to none.

More than 70 per cent of all Carera Windows' home sales come via personal recommendation from happy clients, which number many thousands. It takes pride in completing every project to the highest standard.

From the start, Carera is committed to offering only top-quality products, expert installations and unbeatable personal service to both private and commercial customers. Its experienced team is committed to working closely with local authorities, education authorities, landlords, architects and contractors on its commercial work. Carera Windows is keen to get involved in any kind of commercial project from industrial units to office conversions, new build to refurbishments and renovations.

Attractive doors and windows complement the room setting

The company's showroom at its base is open Monday to Friday. 9am to 5pm and Saturday, 10am to 4pm. It offers a wide range of products in various sizes and colours, manufactured using PVCu, aluminium, GRP and hardwood. Carera also installs entrance doors ,sliding patio doors , french double doors and porches

Carera Windows was started by owner and managing director Mark Crumpton in 1989, originally from home as a small enterprising double glazing company supplying the local area. Its housing association glazing contracts and commercial premises work now also takes the business across the country.

Carera prides itself on offering honest and professional expert advice, installing 100 per cent high quality products, sensible prices and outstanding customer service.

It has become a market leader in its area and aims to provide a friendly service without hard sell.

Carera can supply and fit from a single window to complex orangeries and no job is to small or to large for it. The company controls every aspect of its projects.

CONTACT US

Company: Carera Windows
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Website: www.carerawindows.co.uk

Group channels efforts towards TV station move

THE West Midlands has been described as a 'broadcaster's dream' by campaigners who are calling on Channel 4 to relocate its headquarters from London to the region.

Andy Street, West Midlands Mayor, is leading efforts to attract the channel to the region after the Government said it should move to benefit talent across the UK.

The West Midlands has been put forward as a potential home for the channel, which was launched in 1982, with Coventry, Birmingham, Dudley and Solihull vying with Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield and Bristol.

Recordings

Campaigners pitched their cases in live recordings from Birmingham, Coventry and West Bromwich, where, at the YMCA base in Carters Green, The Chronicle's sister publication The Express & Star hosted a 10-minute recording for Twitter and Facebook.

It featured West Bromwich-based Creative Black Country's creative director Parminder Dosanjh, Creative Academics Network chief executive Jerrel Jackson, Raised by Wolves actor Theo Johnson and Smethwick-based hip-hop artist Malik Harrison, aka MalikMD7.

Ms Dosanjh had led projects like 100 Masters, which promotes local talent while celebrating the Black Country's history. She said: "The question is, why shouldn't Channel 4 come to the West Midlands? It is rich, its exciting, its diverse and I think it is a broadcaster's dream."

Mr Jackson's group showcases talent in the region. He said local talent should not have to travel to London to get a platform. He played Callum in the Channel 4 series co-written by Caitlin Moran and got the job from an audition in the West Midlands.

He said: "There's loads of talent, loads of young, hungry people who are ready to be involved in something and just need a platform. Channel 4 brings creditability and will help immensely." As part of the live recording Malik performed a minute-long prose on growing up in the Black Country.

He said: "The West Midlands would be a great place to develop our talent which would not have to travel to develop – our talent is right here."

Mr Street said bringing Channel 4 to the region would generate £2.3 billion of gross value added between 2021 and 2030.

From left, Jerrel Jackson, chief executive of Creative Academies, rapper Malik MD7, actor Theo Johnson and Parminder Dosanjh, creative director at Creative Black Country

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The chorus entertain during part of 1960's production of Sleeping Beauty

A song and dance number from 1972's Ali Baba

The cast and chorus of a production of Cinderella from around 1953

The Pied Piper pantomime, in 1976

Stage is set to mark 70 years of fun and frolics with church pantomime

MEMORY LANE

Report by Ian Collett

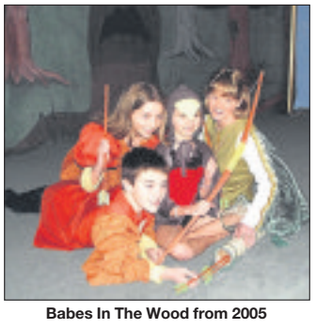
PREPARATIONS are reaching the final stages for an annual pantomime which takes place at a West Bromwich Methodist church – an incredible 70 years on from its first.

Back in February 1948, actors took to the stage at Wesley Methodist Church in High Street, to present their production of Aladdin.

It came about after a group of young people from the church decided to put on a panto to raise some funds for the Sunday School which was short of money.

The cast, chorus and helpers were mainly members of the Sunday School and the panto was performed on a stage in the Akrill Hall at the rear of the old Methodist Church.

Costumes were not easy to come by as clothing vouchers were still in force from the war. One of the young people in that first pantomime was Mollie Neale who played Abanazar and she remembers an entry in her mother's diary which read "the costumes were pyjamas and Japanese dressing gowns, and they didn't look very handsome.



Babes In The Wood from 2005

"They also wanted pigtails and ended up making them from darning wool which could be obtained without using clothing vouchers."

The scripts in those early days were borrowed, but another one of the young people in that first pantomime, Dorothy Smith (Dot), who played Wishee Washee reckoned that she could do better.

So in the early 1950s she started writing the scripts, a job that she continued to do up until around 12 years ago. The troupe continue to use her works, albeit with some amount of rewriting and updating.

In the1960s, as well as writing the scripts Dot took over as producer, a job that she again retained for most years except for a few gaps when other people "had a go" until the last pantomime she wrote and produced in 2006, Sleeping Beauty.

For many years Dot not only wrote the script and produced the pantomime but also accompanied the production on the piano for the musical items for both rehearsals and the actual production.

For a couple of years in the early 1970s the pantomime was performed in the hall at Lyng Methodist Church whilst the old Wesley Church was demolished and rebuilt.

When the new Church was completed the pantomime moved back to the Akrill Hall which had been retained and joined on to the new church's suite of rooms.

Over the years the panto changed from being a Sunday School production to be a church production with the cast, chorus and helpers being drawn from various areas of the church including the Boys' Brigade, Girl Guides, congregation and sometimes the ministers themselves.

Help when necessary has also been forthcoming over the years from members of other local Methodist churches.

Over the years the pantomime has raised a lot of money for much needed church funds and is currently raising between £3500 and £4000.

The 2018 70th anniversary production is Goody Two Shoes, the story of Trisha Two Shoes whose shoes are taken away from her by a spell from a wicked witch, and she is destined to travel the world in search of them. The show runs from Monday February 19 to Saturday 24 and tickets are available by phoning 0121 553 3727.

Ticket prices, times and order forms can all be found on the Church website – www.wesleywestbrom.co.uk

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Hospital deal helped bring Carillion down

MPS have been told mounting debt and a 'handful' of loss-making building contracts put paid to Carillion.

Company bosses and former directors confirmed the delayed £350 million Midland Metropolitan Hospital at Smethwick was one of the loss-making contracts that brought down the Wolverhampton-based construction firm.

And they admitted they should have done more to cut Carillion's debt mountain, which left them no 'wriggle' room when contracts went wrong.

Richard Howson, chief executive until the company admitted it faced £845m losses on building work last summer, said of the Midland Met: "The building services design was delivered six months late and then didn't work, adding to the cost."

Hindsight

At the same time cracked concrete beams had to be replaced at the Royal Liverpool Hospital development. Mr Howson also said, 'with hindsight' he would never have bid for work on the Aberdeen bypass.

The company also had problems with two railway station projects in Canada and its only contract in Qatar, where a £200m bill remained unpaid after 18 months. Work originally due for completion in 2014 was now not due to finish until December.

MPs on the joint Business and Pensions Committees pressed the firm on its soaring pension deficit – now thought to be around £600m – and the decision to keep paying ever higher dividends to shareholders.

Keith Cochrane, who took over from Mr Howson, said cancelling the £50m dividend payment in 2017 would not have had a significant impact on the company's finances.

Carillion's schemes are being transferred to the public Pension Protection Fund, which means eligible staff are likely to receive a portion of their promised pensions.

Rock to get your teeth into

A poster featuring members of the reborn Hollywood Vampires, Joe Perry, Alice Cooper and Johnny Depp, who will be playing in Birmingham

JOHNNY Depp, Alice Cooper and Joe Perry will play Birmingham this summer in their first-ever UK tour. The supergroup trio, named Hollywood Vampires, will perform at the Genting Arena.

Hollywood icon Johnny, shock-rock deity Alice and Aerosmith guitarist Joe will play the city centre venue this June.

The story of the Hollywood Vampires began in the 1970s on the Sunset Strip at the Rainbow Bar and Grill's upstairs bar. It was a gathering place for the rock stars living in or passing through Los Angeles.

"To join the club, one simply had to out drink all of the members," said Alice, a founding member.

"I would walk in on a typical night and John Lennon, Harry Nilsson, Keith Moon – who would usually be in a costume like a maid or a chauffeur – Bernie Taupin, and Mickey Dolenz would be there."

The Vampires will be supported by fellow rock icons The Darkness and The Damned.

The three groups will play Birmingham on June 16.

Tickets are priced between £52.05 and £60.53.

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John Clews

ATTRACTIVE, confident and with a contagious laugh – that's professional chef, Jacky Standish.

Looking younger than her 57 years, Jacky has recently drawn up an unusual "bucket list", though she's quick to point out: "I'm not dying."

For Jacky, who was so ashamed of her teeth she walked her dog at 5am to avoid meeting people, clever dentistry at North Street has marked a new life chapter, punctuated with a list of the all places she's only dreamed of dining.

The former chef and house manager at Hagley Hall has undergone a major transformation after gum disease ruined her smile, confidence and her ability to chew properly.

Now, with four implants retaining an upper overdenture and a partial lower traditional prosthetic, she's thrilled with her new look. "My jaw is sore from smiling so much. No-one would ever know they are not my natural teeth," she says.

WHEN Theresa Reardon from London set out to fix a longstanding dental problem she never imagined it would take a lifetime's search before finding the answer in Dudley.

Even a trip as a dental tourist to Budapest failed to help the 82-year-old.

After a lifetime of denture troubles, it was during a visit to a friend at Wolverhampton she found fresh hope in a newspaper article. For eight years the former Queen's Household domestic kept the cutting about the work of Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS Eng GDC108353.

"I read it over and over again, then one day booked an appointment," she recalls.

"I could never bite an apple – the bottom denture was all over the place – but the day I had my new dentures I went out and had a steak. Steven has done for me what no other dentist has. It's been a long time coming, I'm so grateful that I don't have to put my hand over my mouth any more."

MEETING Vicki Ball is all about the smiles – lots of them and she's gushing with the praise about her new smile.

A retired community midwife, who was based in Wordsley, the bubbly 60-something-year-old is quick to affirm: "I love my new teeth."

Adding, "you can't tell they're not my own," Vicki admits her smile has not always been her favourite attribute.

"I'd grown tired of living my life around my uncomfortable dentures.

I never really stopped going out, but when I did, I was always thinking ahead where I could go to take my teeth out." Vicki's treatment included two implants to stabilise a lower prosthetic and the prescribing of high quality, traditional upper dentures to help support facial features.

"My husband, Terry, couldn't believe they were so good. Not to have to keep thinking about my teeth when I'm out is such a relief," she says.

JOHN Clews is sharply focussed on why he's agreed to do this interview: "I want to give people like me hope," he declares.

The skilled die-sinker knows a thing or two about clever engineering – and with multiple failing teeth, instinctively realised that he too required the kind of skill that sets him apart as an experienced factory problem-solver.

For years he endured daily toothache, but crippled by fear of the dentist, avoided treatment until he could no longer tolerate the problems.

"I came here [North Street] and they promised to restore my smile, but they gave me back my life," he adds.

After having six implants in his upper jaw to support a complete arch of teeth and other remedial work,

John is now able to live his life without having to worry about his teeth.

And the dental phobia? "All staff were fantastic, I felt so much at ease."

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Dangerous dog must be destroyed

A 'LOUD and aggressive' dog must be destroyed after biting a warden and putting neighbours in fear, senior judges have ruled.

The bullmastiff/Dogue de Bordeaux cross, called Simba, is owned by Abbie Killeen. Two High Cout judges, while recognising the 'distress' caused to Mrs Killeen and her family, have now signed Simba's death warrant.

Lord Justice Hickinbottom said the three-year-old had repeatedly broken through Mrs Killeen's fence, terrifying her neighbour, Katie Sephton. Despite attempts to make the fence dog-proof, Simba kept appearing, 'growling and snarling', and chased Ms Sephton from her own garden.

When dog warden Paul Harding visited, Simba bit his left hand, Birmingham High Court heard. Mr Harding said neither Mrs Killeen, from Balsall Heath, nor her mother, 'appeared to have any control over the dog.

Mrs Killeen was prosecuted under the Dangerous Dogs Act and fined by Birmingham Magistrates in February 2016. She was banned from having a dog for two years and magistrates ordered Simba's destruction. Her appeal was dismissed at Birmingham Crown Court and an appeal for a reprieve has been rejected.

Fire-risk flats are on the market after being shut

A BLOCK of flats that had to be evacuated when it was found to be a major fire risk has gone up for sale.

Metro Court in West Bromwich could be brought back into use less than a year after being closed down on the advice of fire officials.

The former office block in High Street is being offered for sale by property firm Bond Wolfe, which said it presented an ideal opportunity for residential development.

Emergency

Its 80 tenants, including families with children, mostly Romanian, were hurriedly moved out as Sandwell Council ordered an emergency evacuation with the view that lives were at risk.

An inspection uncovered a series of failings surrounding fire doors, fire and smoke alarms, and insulation to prevent blazes from spreading.

Fire service chiefs served a Prohibition Notice, meaning it was felt there could be a risk of death in the event of a fire at the 25,000 sq ft former Yellow Pages headquarters. It later emerged council bosses had been told eight months earlier the flats were not meeting fire safety regulations.

Metro Court sits next to the Premier Inn, in High Street, West Bromwich

Bosses said they informed the fire service immediately and had urged the owners of the former office block to take action when the safety issues were first discovered. Bond Wolfe said the block already had planning consent for a residential development on three floors.

Sandwell Council's regeneration boss councillor Paul Moore said he hoped a buyer would come in to take over the building.

Champions earn stars for mental health work

MENTAL health champions have been honoured for providing 'outstanding' support to their communities.

More than 200 people gathered to celebrate the achievements of those helping to improve the mental health of residents.

The inaugural awards, led by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), marked the first year of the Thrive West Midlands programme. It was introduced to drive better mental health and wellbeing across the region. The ceremony was held at The Hawthorns.

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street, who presented the awards alongside North Norfolk MP Norman Lamb, said: "The mental health agenda is a top priority for the WMCA and the Thrive programme has already made astonishing progress in just this first year.

Impact

"I am immensely proud of the work that has been undertaken so far and I look forward to continuing my support as we strive to improve the impact that poor mental health has within our communities and within our workspaces."

The region's Mental Health Superstar was Wolverhampton community worker Gurbax Kaur, who was honoured for raising awareness of mental health issues considered a 'taboo subject' among the city's South Asian community.

Emma Jayne Sasaru, a peer mentor volunteer for birth trauma and perinatal mental health, won Walsall's Mental Health Star award, while Jon Mansell walked away as Dudley's Mental Health Star after impressing judges with his efforts to call for improved services and his work with West Midlands Police to give officers mental health training.

Walsall's Star Emma Jayne Sasaru

Regional Superstar Gurbax Kaur

Dudley award winner Jon Mansell

Staffordshire Health Star Louise Dutton

Zoe Atkins, who was named Sandwell's Mental Health Star, was also recognised for improving mental health and wellbeing, working as a full-time carer and advocate for her daughter Jodie. Staffordshire's Mental Health Star was Louise Dutton, who was commended for her voluntary work at Tamworth-based mental health charity Changes.

The awards were hosted by broadcaster Adrian Goldberg, and the winners were chosen following nominations from across the region.

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Jukebox musical is simply Abba-tastic

A scene from hit musical Mamma Mia! which is staged this week at the Grand Pic: Brinkhoff Mögenburg

Mamma Mia!
Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

MAMMA Mia! bursts onto the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre stage with feather boas, flippers, sequins and snorkels, proving that the mother of all jukebox musicals is still the global phenomenon it promised to be when it hit the stage for the first time back in 1999.

This production is polished, drilled and disciplined and yet still gives the impression of being as realistic and relaxed as the Greek island on which it is set.

Caroline Johnson's wacky storyline is never going to win any literary awards and yet somehow, she manages to keep you guessing and to stir emotions, resulting in a massively uplifting, inspiring, heart-warming evening's entertainment that even the most cynical musical theatre-phobe would enjoy.

Single mom Donna and her only daughter Sophie own a run-down taverna under the beautiful Greek sunny skies. Curious about her parentage, bride-to-be Sophie decides to invite three of Donna's old flames to her wedding, in the hope that she can identify her real father.

The world-wide hit songs of Swedish supergroup Abba reign supreme throughout the show, including Thank You For The Music; Honey, Honey; Dancing Queen; SOS; Knowing Me Knowing You; Money, Money, Money and of course the title song to name but a few. Did I mention it is a jukebox musical? The audience knew every line.

Helen Hobson, though not the strongest vocalist, certainly captures the personality of wild child Donna, wringing every drop of comedy out of the script, while Rebecca Seale is uninhibited and amusing as Rosie. Emma Clifford is sensationally sassy as Tanya.

Mamma Mia! is a delight and Thank You For The Music. It runs at the Grand until Saturday, February 24.

ALISON NORTON

Oh Mamma – Fiona does Grand job on dress duty

IN 1999, she started as a dresser – now two decades on, Fiona Whitehouse is the head of wardrobe behind the Mamma Mia! production.

The musical is being shown for the next three weeks at Wolverhampton Grand, as part of the show's first UK tour.

For Fiona, it is a homecoming as the Grand was where she first started out.

Now she is in charge of the dresses and costumes that the actors wear on stage. Fiona said: "I have been involved with the production for three years, but it is the first time we have come to the Grand.

"It is great to be here as Wolverhampton is my home town. I worked my way up from a dresser and now I'm head of wardrobe – there is lots of organising involved and you have to be on top of everything."

Fiona Whitehouse head of wardrobe

Displaying one of the many outfits

Putting finishing touches to one of the 1970s-inspired costumes

Identity

Mamma Mia! is set on a Greek island and tells a story of love, friendship and identify – told through songs by Swedish pop group Abba. It runs at Wolverhampton's Grand until this Saturday.

Fiona said: "The show is brilliant. At the end of the night, you feel this wave of energy from the audience when you are backstage.

"It is also great watching the show on rare occasions from the seats."

Mamma Mia! has been shown at international venues for the past 13 years, and is currently on its first UK tour. The musical production has been written by Abba stars Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus.

The show includes the band's biggest hits such as Super Trouper, Lay All Your Love on Me, Thank You for the Music and Money, Money, Money. And no doubt fans will be singing along to the well-known Dancing Queen, Knowing Me, Knowing You, Take a Chance on Me, and of course the title track.

It has been seen by more than 60 million people around the world and a film version – starring Meryl Streep, Colin Firth, Pierce Brosnan, Amanda Seyfried and Julie Walters – proved a huge hit after it was released in 2008.

The stage show is described as 'the world's sunniest and most exhilarating smash-hit musical'.

A promotional statement says: "This irresistibly funny show has been thrilling audiences all around the world."

At participating centres only, offers exclude online, conditions apply, call your local centre for details.

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Academy students deliver an outstanding level of progress

Students and staff at Bristnall Hall Academy are celebrating after achieving an outstanding Progress 8 figure, which places the secondary school as a high performing school nationally.

The school is in a great place with significant improvements in all areas including attendance, facilities and confidence of the fantastic young people. These published figures only reinforce what has been apparent for some time now – Bristnall Hall Academy is a great place to learn and work in.

Progress 8 measures a student's progress between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 across eight key subjects. It shows whether students have performed to expectation, based on a value-added measure using Key Stage 2 English and mathematics as a baseline.

Bristnall Hall Academy's Progress 8 results confirm that students make significantly higher progress than expected, due to the high standards and relentless focus on the quality of learning and teaching, coupled with exceptional care for the young people.

Principal Vince Green commented: "Congratulations to our outstanding students and staff and thank you to our families, governors and community for your ongoing support."

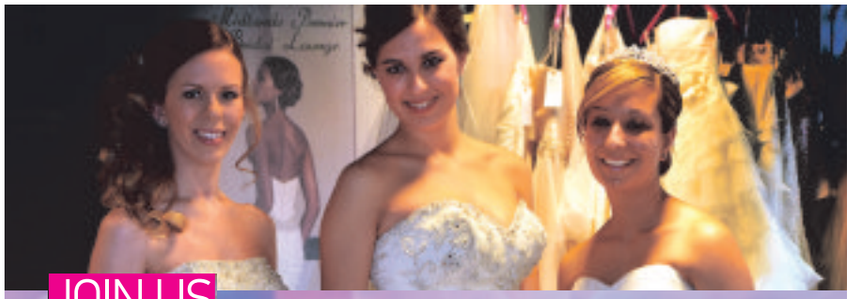
The results demonstrate an improvement for the third consecutive year, with positive Progress 8 scores in every category, including the core subjects of English, mathematics and science.

Results confirm that students at Bristnall Hall are making plenty of progress

The outstanding Progress 8 figure shows that students of all abilities are making transformational progress, particularly with high ability students. Several students achieved grade 9 passes in English or mathematics, placing them in the very highest performers nationally.

The results come in the same academic year as Bristnall Hall Academy achieved a 'Good' judgement from Ofsted, alongside the introduction of the new, more difficult GCSE examinations.

Progress and attainment both improved across the ability range. The confirmed Progress 8 results confirm Ofsted's judgement that Bristnall Hall Academy is well on its way to being an outstanding provider for all students.



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WOLVERHAMPTON MAGAZINE

COMPETITION

All aboard for a Peppa Pig fun journey

PEPPA PIG and her friends are back in a new live show Peppa Pig's Adventure, featuring a new story, lots of songs and heaps of fun!

Join Peppa as she gets ready to go on an exciting camping trip to the woods with George and her school friends, including Pedro Pony, Suzy Sheep and Gerald Giraffe.

With lunchboxes packed and Daddy Pig driving the bus, Peppa and her friends are excited about their outdoor adventure, full of games, laughter and live music!

The happy campers soon settle down to sleep and listen to the gentle pitter patter of rain. Safe and warm inside their tents the excited group can look forward to morning time, when there will be lots of muddy puddles to play in.

The show is coming to a theatre near you and Chronicle readers have the chance to win a family ticket, with seven up for grabs. The show is due to stop off at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on Saturday, April 7 and Sunday, April 8.

Richard Lewis once again takes the helm for this new live stage adaptation of eOne's animated TV series which he directs and has adapted for the theatre.

He has also adapted and directed the four previous Peppa Pig live stage shows, Peppa Pig's Party, Peppa Pig's Treasure Hunt, Peppa Pig's Big Splash and Peppa Pig's Surprise.

The show features music from BAFTA award-winning composer Mani Svavarsson. Audiences will enjoy interactive fun, songs and games with Peppa Pig and her friends. Peppa Pig's Adventure promises to be the perfect theatre show for all pre-schoolers. Suitable for age three plus.

To find a venue near you: www.peppapiglive.com

HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning a family ticket simply answer the following question.

Who is driving the bus?

Send your entry to Peppa Pig Competition, Chronicle editorial department, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES, with your name, address and contact number. Usual rules apply. Closing date: Tuesday, February 20.

Tickets are subject to availability. Transport is not included. Tickets are non-transferable. A family ticket may not exceed people and must include at least one adult.

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Shoppers' £10k boost for appeal

SHOPPERS at Sainsbury's Oldbury store have raised more than £10,000 for The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

It takes the total raised by Sainsbury's customers across the UK to more than £3 million in 2017. Donations took place in store last October and November.

Katy Bradshaw-Sole, store manager at Sainsbury's Oldbury, said: "Our local community always get behind the Poppy Appeal and each year our customers and colleagues continue to dig deep to support the charity. We're thrilled to have raised such a huge amount for The Royal British Legion and look forward to seeing what the future holds for the 23 year partnership."

Inn-cider information

AN Oldbury micropub has won an award just a year after opening.

The Old Dispensary in Causeway Green Road, Langley, has been chosen as cider pub of the year by the Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale.

The pub offers a choice of eight to 10 ciders. It opened in the former Oldbury Pharmacy premises in February last year. The award will be presented at The Old Dispensary on March 3 at 1pm.

FOCUS ON OLDBURY

Phyllis helps raise cancer charity cash for her 100th

REPORT BY MEGAN ARCHER

A FORMER school cook from Oldbury who battled through cancer at the age of 99 has celebrated reaching her 100th birthday.

Great-grandmother Phyllis Crumpton, who lives on the Brandhall Estate, was delighted to spend the day with family and friends at Halesowen Golf Club on January 27 for a celebratory party.

The occasion was made even more poignant due to Mrs Crumpton being in hospital with cancer on her 99th birthday. So, in lieu of presents, she asked if her friends and family could contribute to a collection for Macmillan Cancer Support. A total of £535 was raised for the charity.

Her son, Robert Crumpton, 70, said: "We had a nice buffet and everyone circulated. She had a really lovely time. I think there were about 50 people there – including children – but we were just blown away by the generosity from different people giving money to the charity."

Mrs Crumpton retired as chief cook at Perryfields High School in 1982, a job she had held for 12 years. She was also believed to be one of the oldest to qualify at the Halesowen Technical College when she was in her 50s.

A keen pianist, she would often play the piano for local pantomimes.

Born Phyllis Brown, she married George Crumpton in October 1942. She also has three grandsons and two great-grandsons.

100-year-old great-grandmother Phyllis seen with her card from The Queen

Phyllis Crumpton with her dinner lady colleagues and the late Arthur Greetham, headmaster of Perryfields High School at the time, toasting her retirement in 1982

Metsec to take part in event

THE UK's largest specialist cold roll-forming company will be exhibiting at Explore Offsite Housing on April 10 and 11. Oldbury-based Voestalpine Metsec is taking part in the exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre.

Offsite construction has been suggested as the only way to respond to the demand for new housing. It involves moving the construction of houses into factories and makes the national shortage of labour less of a concern.

Explore Offsite Housing brings together technology leaders to discuss the growing opportunities that the housing shortage presents for offsite construction solutions. Tickets cost £225 for both days and £125 for one, including entry into the conference, lunch and refreshments.

Hidden park's £44k revamp

A 'HIDDEN' park will be revamped as part of a project costing £44,000. Brades Green in Dudley Road East, Oldbury, will be landscaped with new signs installed advertising its location.

The project has been made possible thanks to Section 106 money, which is generated from building developments.

The work will see damaged trees removed and undergrowth cleared.

Volunteer Centre Sandwell

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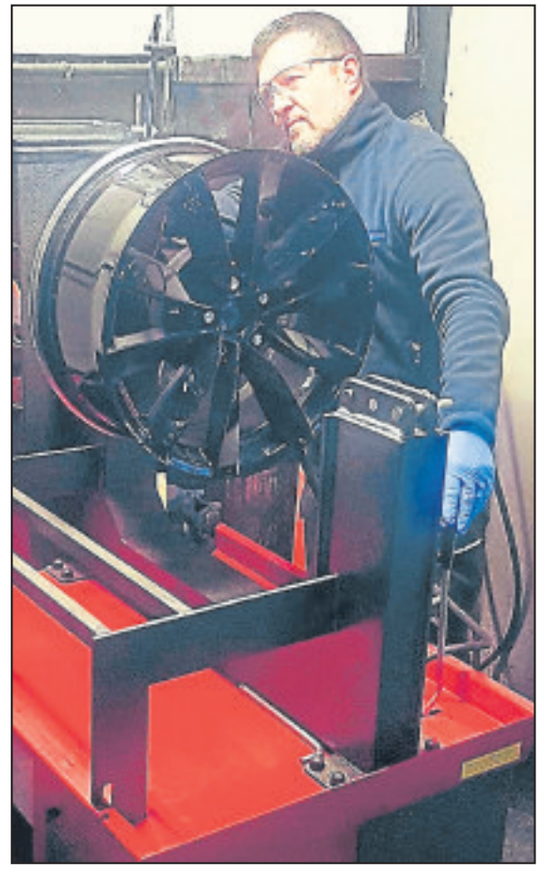

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, February 15, 2018

Bust is star attraction as sale is hit with bidders

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips

THIS month's Perry & Phillips sale of antiques and collectibles proved a great success, with some items selling well above their estimates.

The 'star' of the show was clearly the marble bust (pictured below) of Georgian politician Charles James Fox by famous scupltor Joseph Nollekin, which attracted bids from all over the country and overseas, eventually selling for £8,000 (its estimate was £500 to £800), but there was other items of note that sold very well indeed.

These included: Victorian dining table, sold for £940 (estimate £200 to £300), refectory telescope by Newton & Company (£500, £200 to £300), large collection of Royal Albert Old Country Rose teaware (£110, £70 to £100), collection of T Green and Company blue-banded Cornish kitchen ware (£90, £30 to £50).

Early 19th century Rockingham dessert service (£120, £50 to £80), signed photograph of Sean Connery and other James Bond memorabilia (£100, £40 to £60), 14 boxed model police cars by Die Cast Collectables (£90, £40 to £60), rare Salvatore Ferragamo silvered metal 'cage' handbag (£250, £250 to £500).

Five near-matching silver table spoons, various hallmarks, 19th century (£100, £80 to £120), three Georgian hallmarked silver table spoons (£70, £50 to £80), six silver dining forks, Kings pattern, 1868 (£80, £60 to £100).

Huntley and Palmers biscuit tin in the shape of a snake-skin handbag, together with a collection of other old tins (£75, £20 to £30), 85mm refectory telescope with 1,100mm body and seven ocular lenses (£500, £200 to £300).

Early country oak single-door hanging food cupboard (£150, £120 to £180), Victorian mahogany library bookcase (£420, £200 to £300), good quality Victorian pollard oak sideboard with dog-kennel base (£460, £300 to £500).

The sale was very well attended and we had a number of phone bidders, plus other bids made prior to the sale.

As always, we saw the unusual objects sell extremely well – the bust and the handbag were prime examples – and the good quality furniture always attracts some very healthy bidding.

*** The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectibles will take place at the Mill Street saleroom, Low Town, Bridgnorth on Tuesday, April 3, from 10.30am.**

Viewing is during the weekend and on the Monday prior to the sale and catalogues are available from the saleroom or online at www.perryandphillips.co.uk. Newcomers to the auction should arrive in plenty of time to register and be allocated a bidding number and bids may be made (by prior arrangement) over the phone or left with the auctioneer.

*** Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.**

Designers go to great lengths to protect styles

Striking – Louboutin shoes

NOT many of us will be lucky enough to own a pair of Louboutin shoes with their distinctive red soles but we are all very aware of their place in the design archives and our own wish lists.

Recently the French footwear designer went to court in the Netherlands to stop a Dutch company from using red soles on their own styles.

A colour cannot be registered as a trademark, the only thing that could be considered would be the shape of the sole.

The red Louboutin sole is instantly recognisable, but it is now possible that any brand of shoe could carry the red sole without contravening trademark law, a final verdict is yet to be decided.

Protective

Adidas strongly defends its three stripes. Recently Tesla tried to register a logo for their Model 3 electric car, a trio of horizontal bars, but Adidas contested the application stopping them from using the logo, specifically on clothing, Tesla then changing the logo to a numeric 3.

STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis

Adidas are very protective and have filed over 50 lawsuits in the past 5 years, last month fighting sports competitor Puma when they launched a boot with four stripes – four stripes not three!

Adidas does not own the right to use any combination of stripes but it does have trademarks for using them in specific ways and actively police the marketplace, bringing legal cases on anyone they feel infringes their property.

For many years offshore manufacturers have copied high street brands, often it is difficult to see the difference.

But our border control police are constantly putting unacceptable product into quarantine to avoid it being available for sale on our high streets.

I'm sure most of us have bought counterfeit handbags and clothing while on holiday, Michael Kors and Louis Vuitton two of the most popular, laid out on blankets at the local resorts ready to be pulled from beneath you when the local constabulary make an unannounced appearance.

We still hunt out these illegal sellers to impress our friends with the fake designer purchase when we return home and sadly most of us cannot tell the difference between the real and forgery.

Sales

Trademarks are so important to the brands who own them, they spend time finding a mark that defines them and then money to promote and advertise the product and increase their sales, it is no wonder they are so protective of them.

Online sales make it more difficult for us to check the providence of our purchases.

Are you certain that the designer item you spent a months wages on is the real deal?

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Don't distract your colleagues unnecessarily when they are trying to work

Try and think about how your behaviour might impact on friends and work colleagues

How to avoid annoying your office colleagues

Personal calls at your desk can be rude

IF you're a self-confessed over-talker and your desk resembles a pigsty, chances are you're rubbing your colleagues up the wrong way by carrying out two of the top ten office annoyances.

By Simon Stone

The commercial property experts at LondonOffices.com have compiled a list of the top ten office annoyance that all employees should avoid if they don't want to irritate fellow staff members in the workplace.

Here is the list of the top ten office annoyances:

Unattractive smells

Smells and noises can be magnified when sitting in a confined office space, so be considerate when packing your lunch or snacks. Steer clear of any garlic and fish based meals if you're going to be eating at your desk, as well as particularly spicy or cheesy foods. Be sure to empty your bin regularly too, to avoid the stench of rotting foods. And what is possibly more annoying than a smelly colleague?

Dirty desks

Whilst it may not be your sole responsibility to keep the entire office spick and span, the condition of your own desk falls down to you and you only. If it's covered in a huge pile of unorganised papers and litter, this may be distracting for your colleagues and become a major annoyance in the workplace. If you share a desk, be sure to clear away any personal items at the end of every day too, such as mugs and office supplies.

Over-talking

It's good to break away from your computer for five minutes to chat to your colleagues, but if they look deep in concentration or up to their ears in work then it might not be the best time to strike up a conversation.

Distracting colleagues

Your colleagues have their own work-related issues to worry about, without having to listen to yours being shouted around the office. Remember to talk quietly, as your voice travels further than you might think, and keep annoying habits such as tapping on the desk, fidgeting or getting up and down often to a minimum.

Tea and coffee rounds

Making yourself a cuppa without offering to get anybody else one isn't just annoying, but it could be perceived as being downright rude, particularly if you're quick to accept your colleagues' hot drink offers. Your workmates will quickly grow tired of the gesture not being reciprocated.

Timekeeping

There's only so many times you'll be let off the hook for turning up to work or a meeting late, and when people are constantly having to wait around for you, it won't be long before tempers start to flare.

Coughing and sneezing

You might think that you're showing commitment and dedication to your team by valiantly turning up to work despite nursing a horrible cold or bug, but the fact is germs spread like wildfire and your co-workers don't want to catch your illness, so stay in bed and recover.

Personal phone calls

Using your mobile for personal calls at your desk is hardly the politest of things to do, especially whilst your colleagues are hard at work around you. Making sure it's on silent at work is another important piece of phone etiquette.

Respecting boundaries

Remembering to respect your colleagues' boundaries – both physical and conversational – Is essential to ensuring peace and harmony in the office.

Lunch thieves

You might think that stealing food without anyone noticing is the perfect crime, but remember that doing so will certainly ruin someone else's day..

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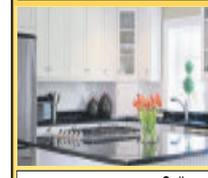

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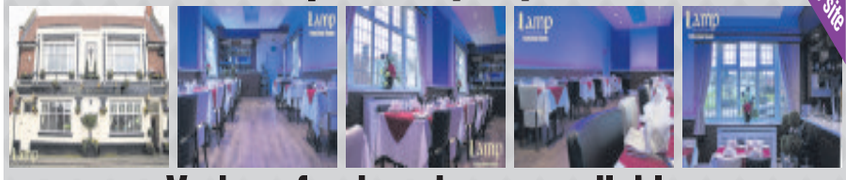

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INSIDE

MUSIC + THEATRE + PUZZLES + TV GUIDE

RED HOUSE GLASS CONE

Red House Glass Cone has lots of activities to keep you busy over the half term, daily glassmaking demonstrations inside our hot glass studio and a family trail across the site.

On Wednesday 21 we have a mini beasts family day and there are pre-bookable bug glass fusion sessions on Tuesday 20 and Thursday 22.

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FATHER'S DAY

by Eric Chappell

Bitter divorcé Henry is enjoying another night of glorious solitude. He is soon disturbed by the unwelcome appearance of his son Matthew with his new, unappealing, punk/goth girlfriend, and sparks soon fly — but this is just the beginning. Next to arrive is Henry's ex-wife, Sue, and before long he is facing some important decisions. Father's Day is a warm and touching comedy based on Eric Chappell's hit TV series "Home to Roost".

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I'll share secrets of my showbiz life

Aussie heartthrob Jason Donovan won't pull any punches when he lines up at Birmingham Town Hall on Wednesday to talk about His Amazing Midlife Crisis.

The man who shot to fame in Neighbours, dated Kylie, had the best-selling album of 1989 and thrilled vast West End audiences in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat – before starring on I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here and Strictly Come Dancing – will be starring in his first spoken word show.

Not that fans will be deprived of the hits. Jason will be performing a selection of his biggest songs in an acoustic setting.

And nothing will be off limits when he takes to the stage for the 90-minute show – including his relationships, his former cocaine habit and more.

"I'm really looking forward to doing this tour. It's something new, something I've not done before and something that the fans are looking forward to.

"There'll be music, there'll be stories, there'll be things people have never seen before and there'll be the chance for them to interact. It's a real up-close-and-personal sort of show. I can't wait."

Jason will reflect on his time in Neighbours during the show, chatting about his time as Scott Robinson and explaining how that character still travels with him.

"When we were on the Ten Good Reasons tour, we had a massive show at Hammersmith. There was a lot of expectation with it being the London show. We asked Kylie if she could come and join us but she wasn't around.

"Then, sitting with the crew in catering one night, someone said 'Have you thought about getting a labrador on stage?' They were referencing Bouncer from Neighbours, of course.

"We all laughed and thought it would be a funny idea to introduce someone that was petite and blonde, one of the members of the Neighbours cast – and then Bouncer walks on. So we'd teased everyone that it might be Kylie, but actually Bouncer turned up.

"Finding a dog that looked like Bouncer at the last minute proved difficult. It's not like you can audition a dog. And let me tell you, hiring a dog isn't cheap. Anyway, we booked a Bouncer lookalike.

"And then we got a call on the day of the show to say that Lookalike Bouncer was ill so they were sending an identical Stunt Lookalike Bouncer. Suddenly Bouncer had turned from a meat eating well rounded canine to a slim and petite Jenny Craig lookalike.

"Anyway the dog came on stage WITH its owner which wasn't what I expected, I had thought the dog would wander on and over to me. But it didn't. It forgot it was supposed to be Bouncer and started being a sniffer dog wondering if there were any treats in the stage."

Jason has spent a lifetime in the public eye and has learned to deal with fame. And in Jason Donovan and His Amazing Midlife Crisis he will explain how he's handled it.

"I never got into this business to be famous. It was a by-product of what I do, what I'm passionate about. However, that's not to say I haven't enjoyed most parts of my fame. Look I came from Australia, where it was relatively calm, and then I came here and it was insane.

"I found Joseph particularly challenging because of the workload, being in a theatre and the responsibilities of leading a cast eight shows a week. It was really claustrophobic. But other things happen and you start to not take this whole game too seriously. Today I can deal with it but back then I found the intensity of it all difficult."

Jason will also talk about his rebellious 1990s, when he went off the rails. "The 90s was about rebellion. You find a lot of famous people rebel against their own image particularly if they've feel like they can't even control their own image. I was trying to be cool in the 90s, but in fact I came to realise there is no such thing as cool, no such thing.

"I had photographers chasing me around the world. It was just mad. There were people following me into the toilet to get an autograph."

These days, Jason is happily married with three kids and likes to combine work with downtime, so that he can spend time with his family. He'll talk about their importance and the way they help him to keep his feet on the ground.

"As long as the kids are getting tickets to Ed Sheeran, Sam Smith, Beyoncé, Coldplay or Chainsmokers through my contacts, then they're happy. There are some great moments that come about because of doing this. It was incredible meeting Prince William at a Gary Barlow show, for instance.

"And the reaction from Strictly was amazing. I think the kids were embarrassed when I signed up for that – but as soon as I started winning they didn't think it was so bad after all."

● Jason will also take his show to Telford's Oakengates Theatre on May 8 and Stafford's Gatehouse Theatre on May 9.

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

Too many broken hearts – Jason reveals all about his past

Finding a dog that looked like Bouncer at the last minute proved difficult

The Winslow Boy at the Rep

Tessa's no fool to take on role in play about justice

IT WAS written just after the Second World War. But Terence Rattigan's The Winslow Boy feels as relevant today as it must have done back then.

With its themes of honesty and honour – allied to an imperfect justice system – it still resonates.

The latest revival of the play is heading to Birmingham Rep from February 21 to March 3 and is being directed by the Rep's former artistic director Rachel Kavanaugh, starring Tessa Peake-Jones, best known for Only Fools and Horses, and Aden Gillett.

It focuses on the story of a young man, Ronnie Winslow, who is expelled from the Royal Navy College for stealing a five-shilling postal order. His entire family are pulled apart by the repercussions.

Set in Edwardian London, the Winslow family fight to clear his name or face social ostracism as the case becomes a national scandal. Based on a real-life event, The Winslow Boy is a window into the class and political hypocrisy of the time.

"It's about family. Do they rally round?" said Tessa, who plays the boy's mother. "Grace, my character, has a real meltdown and wonders why they are going on with it. They are losing money all the time on the court case with huge solicitors' bills. She finds it hard to justify it and she has a point.

"But it's a moral dilemma. Do you give in because it's easier to give in and live a quiet life and don't make a fuss. Or, do you fight on, morally, because you want to prove a point. I think it's still very relevant today."

Sunjay sings the blues at folk gig

Up-and-coming blues and folk musician Sunjay is playing a gig in Kingswinford next week.

Described as the the antithesis of your typical denim-clad. dishevelled folk and blues musician, Sunjay, pictured, has perfectly groomed hair, shining winkle picker boots and looks every inch the city slicker. However, when the Stourbridge man starts to play the guitar and sing, music fans are transported to a world where blues and country music meld seamlessly amidst humid mangrove swamps.

He will play at The Woodman Folk Club, Ashwood Marina, Kingswinford, tomorrow night (Friday).

Sunjay's earliest memories are, as a four-year old, learning Buddy Holly songs from his dad. During 2017, Sunjay played Buddy Holly, in Simon Fielder's travelling theatre show of Buddy Holly & The Cricketers, a role he was offered when he went for an audition in London as a backing singer and guitarist. He recently released an album Sunjay Sings Buddy.

Next Sunjay, whose full name is Sunjay Brain, is supporting folk stars Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman on a UK tour, which comes to the Midland Arts Centre in Edgbaston on April 19.

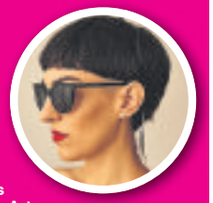
He has also recorded a new album of his own songs to be released later this year.

Still only in his mid-20s, Sunjay has become a master guitarist, who has crafted his show to perfection.

An evening with Sunjay is an evening of exquisite blues, country and folk combined with a master class in guitar playing interspersed with hilarious anecdotes – and even the occasional Buddy Holly song.

The Kingswinford gig starts at 8.30pm. Tickets are £7 and £8. For more details call (01384) 560462.

Say Hello to jazz singer Irit at Glee



Israeli jazz singer Irit will showcase her new album Hello at Birmingham's Glee Club on Monday. The songwriter, pictured, who is also an actress and a former soldier, toured last year with Caro Emerald. Other key gigs: Tomorrow (Friday), Birmingham indie rockers JAWS at the Newhampton Arts Centre in Wolverhampton; Saturday, Grimsby rockers The Brew at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms; Sunday, veteran prog rock band Curved Air with Sonja Kristina at the Robin 2 in Bilston.

House full for CBSO at Symphony Hall

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra has one of its busiest weeks coming up with a series of major concerts at Symphony Hall as part of its 2017-18 season.

The highlight is Saturday's sold-out performance of Carmina Burana with the CBSO Symphony Orchestra, chorus and children's chorus united under the baton of Michael Seal. That's after Freddy Kempf gets his chance to shine during Grieg's Piano Concerto. Kempf will also be performing that piece during today's (Thursday's) matinee performance with Elgar's First Symphony.

Next Thursday evening, February 22, Leo McFall will conduct the CBSO for Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet and Paul Lewis will be at the keys for Brahms' volcanic First Piano Concerto. See www.thsh.co.uk

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Tues 20th Predators Karaoke
Wed 21st Chad White
Thur 22nd Starmakers Karaoke
Fri 23rd Lucas Adams
Sat 24th Dave Golding
Sun 25th Starmakers Karaoke
Mon 26th Bens Disco & Karaoke
Tue 27th Predators Karaoke
Wed 28th Alex

MARCH WHAT'S ON

Thur 1st Starmakers Karaoke
Fri 2nd Faye Horn
Sat 3rd The Disco Disciples
Sun 4th Starmakers Karaoke
Mon 5th Bens Disco & Karaoke
Tues 6th Predators Karaoke
Wed 7th Tyler Jon
Thur 8th Starmakers Karaoke
Fri 9th Nina Plus Disco
Sat 10th Ariana Grande Tribute
Sun 11th Starmakers Karaoke
Mon 12th Bens Disco & Karaoke
Tues 13th Predators Karaoke
Wed 14th Adrian Michaels
Thur 15th Starmakers Karaoke
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Sat 17th Charlie Waterford
Sun 18th Starmakers Karaoke
Mon 19th Bens Disco & Karaoke
Tues 20th Predators Karaoke
Wed 21st Chad White
Thur 22nd Starmakers Karaoke
Fri 23rd Carl Merry
Sat 24th UB40 Tribute
Sun 25th Starmakers Karaoke
Mon 26th Bens Disco & Karaoke
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SATURDAY'S TV FEBRUARY 17

CHOICE

Louis Hunter

Troy: Fall of a City (BBC1, 9.10pm)
New series. A encounter with the gods binds the fate of young herdsman Paris to that of his home city of Troy, and when he is granted the honour of visiting Sparta as a guest of King Menelaus, he falls in love with the beautiful queen Helen, with far-reaching consequences that threaten to bring an empire to its knees. David Farr's historical epic, starring Louis Hunter, Bella Dayne, Jonas Armstrong, David Threlfall, Frances O'Connor, David Gyasi, Joseph Mawle, Johnny Harris, Tom Weston-Jones, Chloe Pirrie, Aimee-Ffion Edwards, Alex Lanipekun, Alfred Enoch and David Avery.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day eight from PyeongChang, South Korea. **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Continued coverage of day eight from PyeongChang, South Korea. **4.30** Final Score. **5.25** BBC News. **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.45** And They're Off for Sport Relief.

6.25 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong hosts as Jayne Torvill, Clare Balding, Jenny Jones, Amy Williams, Graham Bell, Rhona Howie and more compete in a Winter Olympics-themed edition of the quiz.

7.15 All Together Now. Rob Beckett gives another selection of vocallists take to the stage, hoping to impress the 100-strong panel of judges enough to get them to sing along with their performance. This time, the would-be stars tackle Pharrell Williams' ubiquitous hit Happy, Climb Every Mountain from The Sound of Music and Skyfall from the 007 film of the same name. The experts are also encouraged to join in with renditions of 1970s classics in the form of Candi Staton's Young Hearts Run Free and the Jackson 5's Who's Loving You.

8.20 Casualty. Ethan plans to deal with surplus patients by sending them to a Clinical Decisions Unit, but this fails to fool the Rage in Resus blogger, who continues to expose the ED's faults.

9.10 Troy: Fall of a City. New series. An encounter between a Trojan herdsman and the queen of Sparta sparks a conflict that brings an empire to its knees.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from the latest fifth-round matches, which included Brighton & Hove Albion v Coventry City and West Bromwich Albion v Southampton.

11.35 Live at the Apollo. Adam Hills hosts an evening of stand-up at the Apollo in Hammersmith, London, introducing routines by Andi Osho and Terry Alderton. (R)

12.20 Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day nine from PyeongChang, South Korea. **3.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Continued coverage of day nine from PyeongChang, South Korea.

BBC2

6.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day eight from PyeongChang, South Korea. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food. (R) **12.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day eight from PyeongChang, South Korea. **1.15** Escape to the Country. **1.45** Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. (R) **2.15 Film:** The Third Man. (1949) Thriller, starring Joseph Cotten and Orson Welles. **4.00** Flog It! (R) **4.45** Nigel Slater's Middle East. (R) **5.45** Tom Kerridge: Lose Weight for Good. (R)

6.15 Hugh's Wild West. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall follows the fortunes of a small buzzard family, and tracks salmon migrating upstream as his wildlife tour takes him to Dartmoor.

7.15 Winter Olympics – Today at the Games. Clare Balding presents highlights of the eighth day's action from the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PyeongChang, South Korea.

8.00 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. New series. The naturalist continues to explore the secrets behind evolution, this time focusing on the animal kingdom's bizarre hybrids, including the "pizzly bear". Previously seen on W.

8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring finds a German pilot trapped on top of the town clock by his parachute, so the platoon attempts a rescue mission. (R)

9.00 QI XL. An extended edition in which Bill Bailey, Colin Lane and Desiree Burch join regular panellist Alan Davies to answer host Sandi Toksvig's questions on the theme "Overseas".

9.45 Imagine – Mel Brooks: Unwrapped. Alan Yentob travels to Hollywood to interview Mel Brooks, the comedy actor, writer, producer and director who turned 91 last year. At the time of filming, the musical theatre version of Brooks' 1974 comedy horror Young Frankenstein has just opened on London's West End. Yentob marks the occasion by profiling its creator, observing him at work and play, and revisiting archive interviews stretching back decades.

11.00 Film: Young Frankenstein. (1974)

12.40 Film: The Producers. (1968) **2.45** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.50** BBC News.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Fangbone. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Dancing on Ice. (R) **2.30** Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury. (R) **3.00** Celebrity Catchphrase. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R)

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.20 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 Take Me Out. A rower from Nottingham, a barman from Luton, a lifeguard from London and a football fan from Ipswich enter the "love lift" in the hope of impressing 30 single women and winning a date – but must first get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Host Paddy McGuinness presides on the matching process, and also catches up on the latest dating action from all the couples in Fernando's as the dating game bows out for another series. Last in the series.

8.00 The Voice UK. Emma Willis hosts the conclusion of the blind auditions phase of the contest, as performers compete for the chance to impress judges Will.i.am, Tom Jones, Jennifer Hudson and Olly Murs and win one of the final places on the coaches' teams. Those contenders surviving this stage of the competition remain in with a chance to win a recording contract with Polydor Records.

9.30 Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon hosts the game show in which celebrity panellists Paddy McGuinness, Catherine Tyldesley and Chris Kamara are challenged to identify the homes of the rich and famous.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 Film: Lethal Weapon 3. (1992) Detectives Riggs and Murtaugh go on the trail of a former policeman selling impounded weaponry to criminal gang bosses. Thriller sequel, starring Mel Gibson.

12.45 Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R) **6.20** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **6.45** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** The King of Queens. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.30** Coast vs Country. (R) **3.35** A Place in the Sun. (R) **4.35** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) **5.35** The Supervet. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages. New series. Penelope heads on a seaside journey around the coastal villages of the UK. In the first episode, she visits the seaside villages of West Sussex and the Isle of Wight, where she quickly finds herself immersed in stories of seafarers, smugglers and shipwrecks. Previously seen on More4.

8.00 Britain at Low Tide. New series. Natural History Museum palaeontologist Tori Herridge returns with the maritime documentary, which makes use of state-of-the-art technology to explore Britain's coastline for signs of the nation's seafaring history. This time, she begins in East Sussex, where she explores the wreck of a ship that sank in the 1740s along with its cargo, and she uncorks a bottle filled with 18th-century red wine. She also discovers a prehistoric well shaft that is now situated on the foreshore, but would have been much further inland 2,000 years ago.

9.00 Film: Ted 2. (2015) Premiere. The foul-mouthed talking teddy bear is horrified to discover that he counts as property according to the law. He and his human best friend hire a pot-smoking lawyer to help them fight a court case and get Ted legally recognised as a person. Comedy sequel, starring Mark Wahlberg and Amanda Seyfried.

11.15 Film: Dracula Untold. (2014) Fantasy adventure, starring Luke Evans and Dominic Cooper.

12.55 The Last Leg. (R) **1.50** Hollyoaks. (R) **3.55** Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny. (R) **4.50** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.45** Superfoods: The Real Story. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 3. (R) **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** The A-Team. (R) **2.00** The A-Team. (R) **3.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **4.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.00** Rich House, Poor House. (R)

6.00 The Wonderful World of Puppies. Documentary charting the first few months of a dog's life, following different breeds as they take the first steps on their own unique developmental journey. Dalmatians Daphne and Digby start to develop the spots that will mark them out for life, and take their first stumbling steps in the great outdoors. Ruby the toy poodle's huge personality belies her diminutive frame, while abandoned Jack Russell pup Boomer's shattered confidence will need to be rebuilt by the love of a foster home. (R)

7.00 Cruising with Jane McDonald. A Lilliputian lope round the Inner Hebrides puts Jane in touch with her Scottish roots, as with just six other passengers she embarks on what is easily her smallest ever cruise. (R)

8.00 The World's Most Luxurious Cruise Ship. Part two of two. The Seven Seas Explorer's designers rush to choose the luxury fittings and fixtures, before Princess Charlene of Monaco christens the vessel. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games, including Cardiff City v Middlesbrough, Fulham v Aston Villa and Sunderland v Brentford.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Milton Keynes Dons v Charlton Athletic and Barnet v Accrington Stanley.

10.30 Film: There's Something About Mary. (1998) A lovesick man hires a seedy detective to track down his high-school sweetheart – but discovers he has many rivals for her affections. Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz and Ben Stiller.

12.40 SuperCasino. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.00** Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Dark: Nature's Nighttime World **8.00** Winter Olympics Extra **9.00** Modus **10.35** Top of the Pops: 1985 **11.10** The Joy of the Bee Gees **12.10** Southern Rock at the BBC **1.10** Sings Neil Diamond **1.40** The Joy of the Bee Gees **2.40** From Ice to Fire: The Incredible Science of Temperature **3.40** Close

ITV2
11.45 Take Me Out **12.55** Mr Bean **1.30 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **2.35** FYI Daily **2.40 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **3.15 Film:** Spy Kids (2001) **4.15** FYI Daily **4.20 Film:** Spy Kids (2001) **5.05 Film:** Despicable Me 2 (2013) **6.10** FYI Daily **6.15 Film:** Despicable Me 2 (2013) **7.00 Film:** Jurassic World (2015) **8.10** FYI Daily **8.15 Film:** Jurassic World (2015) **9.30** Survival of the Fittest **10.35** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.00 Film:** Zack and Miri Make a Porno (2008) **2.00** FYI Daily **2.05 Film:** Zack and Miri Make a Porno (2008) **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
1.20 Film: Columbo: The Most Crucial Game (1972) **2.55** Lewis **4.55** Midsomer Murders **6.55** The Durrells **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.05** The Good Karma Hospital **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Ascot **4.00 Film:** The Way West (1967) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10 Film:** The Way West (1967) **6.25 Film:** Casino Royale (1967) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30 Film:** Casino Royale (1967) **9.00 Film:** Executive Decision (1996) **10.30** FYI Daily **10.35 Film:** Executive Decision (1996) **11.45 Film:** Blade (1998) **12.45** FYI Daily **12.50 Film:** Blade (1998) **2.05** The Protectors **2.35** Counting Cars **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.00 Film: Casper (1995) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00 Film:** Men in Black (1997) **9.00 Film:** X-Men: First Class (2011) **11.35** Gogglebox **12.40** The Big Bang Theory **1.40** Celebs Go Dating **2.45** Celebs Go Dating: Valentines **3.35** Celebs Go Dating **4.30** How I Met Your Mother **5.15** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4
1.00 Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (2011) **2.45** Young Sherlock Holmes (1985) **4.55** Ice Age: The Meltdown (2006) **6.40** The Day After Tomorrow (2004) **9.00** Lone Survivor (2013) **11.20** The Fly II (1989) **1.25** The Voices (2014) **3.35** Close

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SUNDAY'S TV FEBRUARY 18

CHOICE

Daniel Day-Lewis

British Academy Film Awards 2018 (BBC1, 9pm)
Joanna Lumley hosts the awards ceremony live from the Royal Albert Hall. This year's nominated films are Call Me By Your Name, Darkest Hour, Dunkirk, The Shape of Water and Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri, while Jamie Bell, Daniel Day-Lewis, Gary Oldman, Timothée Chalamet, Daniel Kaluuya, Annette Bening, Sally Hawkins, Frances McDormand, Margot Robbie and Saoirse Ronan are among the actors in the running for awards.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.55** Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Continuing coverage from PyeongChang, South Korea. **3.35** Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. Rochdale v Tottenham Hotspur (Kick-off 4.00pm).
6.05 BBC News.
6.20 Regional Programme.
6.30 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Anita Rani present the show from Anglesey, where they go in search of harbour porpoises, investigate the boom in Menai mussels, talk to children who work to keep the beaches clear of plastic, and meet a squirrel whisperer. Plus, Helen Skelton reports on faux fur and Adam Henson discovers how farmers are using facial recognition technology to spot problems with their livestock.
7.30 Hold the Sunset. New series. Comedy, starring Alison Steadman as a retired woman whose dreams for the future are disrupted when her middle-aged son abandons his family and moves back into her house.
8.00 Call the Midwife. Rumours spread around Poplar that a sailor with smallpox is hiding somewhere in town. Nurse Crane and Dr Turner try to track him down before he causes an outbreak.
9.00 British Academy Film Awards 2018. Joanna Lumley hosts the awards ceremony live from the Royal Albert Hall. This year's nominated films are Call Me By Your Name, Darkest Hour, Dunkirk, The Shape of Water and Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri, while Jamie Bell, Daniel Day-Lewis, Gary Oldman, Timothée Chalamet, Daniel Kaluuya, Annette Bening, Sally Hawkins, Frances McDormand, Margot Robbie and Saoirse Ronan are among the actors in the running for awards.
11.00 BBC News.
11.20 Regional Programme.
11.30 Julius Caesar Revealed. Mary Beard explores the life, reign and legacy of the Roman emperor. (R)
12.30 Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage from PyeongChang, South Korea. **3.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018.

BBC2

6.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018. Eilidh Barbour presents coverage of day nine. **9.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Further coverage of day nine from PyeongChang, South Korea. **12.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **1.45** A Vicar's Life. (R) **2.15** The Crane Gang. (R) **3.15** South Korea: Earth's Hidden Wilderness. (R) **4.15** Lifeline. **4.25** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Back in Time for Tea. (R)
6.00 New York: America's Busiest City. Behind the scenes with the team who look after all 843 acres of Central Park, revealing the hidden systems and organisational miracles that keep the world's busiest urban park clean and green. Plus, Ant Anstead sees how an entirely new district is being built on top of a functioning rail depot in Manhattan and Dan Snow is in Coney Island, where he discovers that television, air conditioning and extreme weather almost killed off this historic amusement zone. (R)
7.00 Winter Olympics – Today at the Games. Clare Balding presents highlights of day nine's action from the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PyeongChang, South Korea.
8.00 Dragons' Den. The panel assess the profit-making potential of a combined toothbrush and mobile game controller, a range of Scottish gins, and a device for relieving back pain. Last in the series.
9.00 Life and Death Row: The Mass Execution. New series. Documentary following prisoners in Arkansas awaiting execution following the state's reintrodution of the death penalty.
10.00 The Mash Report. Nish Kumar and a cast of comedy correspondents present the satirical and surreal take on the week's news. (R)
10.30 Live at the Apollo. Rob Beckett presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo in west London. (R)
11.15 Cleverman. Koen confronts Linda about the dark secret from their past, Nerida, Alinta and Latani are arrested by the Containment Authority and Jarli takes Charlotte to the land of the Bindawu.
12.05 Film: Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. (1967) **1.50** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.50** Holby City. (R) **3.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **3.55** BBC News.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Spy School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** The Martin Lewis Money Show. (R) **11.25** The Voice UK. (R) **12.55** ITV News; Weather. **1.00** The Harbour. (R) **1.30** The Cruise: Return to the Mediterranean. (R) **2.00** What Would Your Kid Do? (R) **3.00** Britain's Brightest Family. (R) **3.30** Tipping Point. (R) **4.30** ITV News; Weather. **4.45** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R)
6.00 Dancing on Ice. Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby present as the seven remaining pro-celebrity couples put their training into practice in a battle to win viewers' votes, impress the judges and survive another week on the ice. As always, Chris Dean, Jayne Torvill, Jason Gardiner and Ashley Banjo will be scoring them out of 10, but it will only be after the viewers have voted that the unlucky two in the skate off will be revealed. Singer Camila Cabello provides the music.
8.00 Endeavour. Morse suspects a connection between a woman's disappearance and the unsolved murder of a teenager several years previously. However, the discovery of a body and some unusual elements to the crime scene suggest another possibility. Thursday investigates a lorry hijack which he believes could be the work of a local gangster, and Fancy takes on an informant who is subsequently murdered.
10.00 ITV News; Weather.
10.15 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R)
11.15 Frustrated Britain: Caught on Camera. Examining things that anger the public, featuring an annoying brother, a foul-mouthed granny, celebrities seeing red, and a woman angered by poor spelling. (R)
12.10 Car Wars UK. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Take on the Twisters. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55 Film:** The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water. (2015) Premiere. Animated comedy. **4.45 Film:** Rio 2. (2014)
6.35 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Posh Pawn. James enjoys a tipple from an unusual £75,000 fire engine bar, memorabilia expert Lawrence is presented with an autograph collection that could be worth £20,000, and a former model wants to sell some designer bags to the high-end pawnbrokers to finance the renovation of her house and her body. (R)
8.00 The First Brit: Secrets of the 10,000 Year Old Man. Documentary following scientists at the Natural History Museum and University College London studying Britain's oldest human remains. The skeleton was unearthed in Cheddar Gorge, Somerset, and has been dated as 10,000 years old. Two of the world's most acclaimed palaeontological model makers are attempting to recreate the human face of this ancient Briton.
9.00 Homeland. New series. The espionage drama returns for a seventh season. Saul and the 200 other federal employees detained after the attempt on the President-elect's life are still in prison, while the new head of state's administration continues to come under scrutiny. Carrie has left her position in the White House and moved back to DC, living with her sister Maggie and her family as she takes on the Keane administration and tries to secure the release of her mentor and colleagues. Starring Claire Danes.
10.15 Film: Our Kind of Traitor. (2016) Premiere. A couple are thrown into the murky world of espionage when a Russian gangster asks them to smuggle classified information. Thriller, With Ewan McGregor and Naomie Harris.
12.20 The Supervet. (R) **1.15** The World's Most Expensive Food. (R) **2.05** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **3.00** Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Mofy. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **6.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.40** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.15** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.35** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.50** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.20** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.35** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.25** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. **12.30 Film:** Justin and the Knights of Valour. (2013) Animated adventure, with the voice of Freddie Highmore. **2.15 Film:** PS I Love You. (2007) Romantic drama, starring Hilary Swank and Gerard Butler. **4.45 Film:** Something's Gotta Give. (2003) Romantic comedy, starring Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton. **5.45** 5 News Update. **5.50 Film:** Something's Gotta Give. (2003) Concluded.
7.00 5 News Weekend.
7.10 Greatest Celebrity Wind-Ups Ever! Joe Pasquale revisits hilarious celebrity pranks, with first-hand accounts from the people responsible for staging the tricks, and the unfortunate stars on the receiving end. (R)
8.00 Dumb Daredevils: Caught in the Act. Iain Lee narrates comical videos featuring would-be daredevils, including a blogger who will do anything his followers tell him to, including jumping off Tower Bridge. Plus, the programme meets a man whose daredevil marriage proposal has been viewed millions of times and has led to an unusual career change.
9.00 When Comedy Goes Horribly Wrong. Julian Clary narrates a compilation of disastrous mishaps from comedy shows. Featuring a stunt fight that ended badly for Russell Howard, an incident that left Tony Hancock determined to never perform live again, and a rare outtake from a long-forgotten sitcom in which Ian Ogilvy and Lionel Jeffries nearly drown.
12.00 Bette Midler: By Her Friends. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Cowboy Builders. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Winter Olympics Extra **9.00** Akala's Odyssey **10.00 Film:** In Order of Disappearance (2014) **11.50** From Ice to Fire: The Incredible Science of Temperature **12.50** The Secret Life of Books: Cider with Rosie **1.50** Modus **4.05** Close

ITV2
2.20 Film: Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams (2002) **3.20** FYI Daily **3.25 Film:** Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams (2002) **4.20 Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **5.20** FYI Daily **5.25 Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **6.20 Film:** The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) **7.20** FYI Daily **7.25 Film:** The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Survival of the Fittest **11.00** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** The Cleveland Show **1.55** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
1.35 Les Dawson Forever **3.40** The Durrells **5.50** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00 Film:** Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007) **12.15** The Security Men **1.15** Blue Murder **2.35** Judge Judy **3.00** George and Mildred **4.20** Road to Avonlea

ITV4
12.35 Pawn Stars **2.25** Hornblower **4.40 Film:** The Way West (1967) **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50 Film:** The Way West (1967) **7.05 Film:** The Train Robbers (1973) **8.10** FYI Daily **8.15 Film:** The Train Robbers (1973) **9.00 Film:** High Plains Drifter (1973) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** High Plains Drifter (1973) **11.10 Film:** Memphis Belle (1990) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15 Film:** Memphis Belle (1990) **1.20** The Professionals

E4
11.00 The Goldbergs **1.00** Toy Story Toons: Hawaiian Vacation **1.15** The Big Bang Theory: Sheldon's Family Tree **6.15** The Big Bang Theory **7.15 Film:** Men in Black II (2002) **9.00** Celebs Go Dating **10.00** Naked Attraction **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **12.00** Gogglebox **1.05** Celebs Go Dating **2.10** Don't Tell the Bride: Valentine's Day **3.05** First Dates Abroad **3.30** Hollyoaks

Film4
1.00 Last Holiday (2006) **3.10** Carry On Jack (1963) **5.00** Napoleon Dynamite (2004) **6.50** GI Joe: Retaliation (2013) **9.00** The Family (2013) **11.10** Zero Dark Thirty (2012) **2.15** The Future (2011) **4.00** Close

PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Final Recourse, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A wealthy businesswoman spirals into substance abuse as a way of dealing with a tragedy, and, in the haze of a drunken stupor, she is kidnapped. Held in a makeshift prison by her captors, she goes through the agony of drug and alcohol withdrawal, before managing to escape and return home to her family. It's only then, however, that she realises someone close to home may have been behind her abduction. Thriller, starring Teri Polo and Chazz Palminteri. (2013)

TUESDAY
Deadly Departure, Channel 5, 3.15pm
The family of FBI agent Sarah Plummer are taken hostage while she is on a flight to Washington, DC. While on the flight, she meets a mysterious stranger seated beside her, and is forced to make a decision that could cost her the lives of her husband and 12-year-old son. Action, starring Dina Meyer, Victoria Pratt and Justin Johnson. (2016)

Underworld: Rise of the Lycans, Friday, Channel 4, 12.05am

WEDNESDAY
A Housekeeper's Revenge, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A student fears for her life after a number of disturbing occurrences, leaving her desperately searching for the culprit. The search leads to her family housemaid - unaware their connection is much deeper than expected. Thriller, starring Chrysti Ane. (2016)

THURSDAY
Killer Obsession, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A National Guard solder returns from the frontline in Iraq and struggles to return to a normal life. To make matters worse, she finds herself blamed for a friendly fire incident in which two Americans were killed - and then she becomes the target of an obsessed fellow soldier seeking revenge for their deaths. Thriller, starring Roxanne McGee. (2016)

FRIDAY
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans, Channel 4, 12.05am
A werewolf leads a revolution against the vampire king who has enslaved his race, starting a centuries-long war. Fantasy horror prequel, starring Michael Sheen and Bill Nighy. (2009)

Grim new case is far from child's play for Marcella

You might be well-apprised of the police procedural format by now; typically, our hero detectives are broody rebels touched by crime-solving genius.

In ITV's Twitter-storming 2016 'London Noir' thriller Marcella, the heroine had bigger issues than a meddling DCI or an unhealthy relationship with booze - plagued by dissociative fugues, DS Marcella Backland suffered periodical black-outs, and while she appeared to function normally during these moments, she was later unable to remember anything she had done during these episodes.

This proved incredibly problematic when her cheating husband's mistress suddenly turned up dead – and Marcella wasn't able to say with any confidence whether this was the work of a fugitive serial killer, or her own misdeed.

Naturally, this issue became the core of the show's appeal, and the fact wasn't lost on actress Anna Friel: "It's a study of a woman on the edge of a nervous breakdown whilst holding down a really full on job.".

Just like it's ITV crime-drama stablemate Broadchurch, Marcella gave its female lead a highly personal stake in catching the killer, and the idea carries over to the second series. In the words of writer Hans Rosenfeldt: "Marcella is a show that is just as much about Marcella being Marcella as it is about her being a police officer. So, it works best when the case she is working on is connected to her personal life in some way."

This time around, we catch up with her following a grim discovery inside a wall. The body of a child is found, clothed in a school blazer and surrounded by soft toys, and Marcella is devastated when she realises the tragic victim is Leo Priestley, a boy who was abducted a few years earlier – and one who had been friends with her own son Edward.

As a result, work follows Marcella back home once again. Not only must she protect her own children from a deadly predator, but she also has to help her son come to terms with the death of a schoolmate. And it seems her efforts might not quite hit the mark.

"Marcella has thoughts on whether she deserves to be a mother or not," states Friel. "She seems to try her best but maybe that's not enough."

Considering the demands of playing a character whose life falls apart on a routine basis, it must be hard for the ex-Brookside star to get back into Marcella's head-space. Not so, claims Friel: "As soon as the fringe was cut back in and my hair was pulled back into the ponytail, I was like 'oooh, she's back'".

For some, though, the mark of a great Scandi-style thriller heroine rests solely on her wardrobe.

Danish actress Sarah Lund famously jump-started a knitwear revolution with her Faroe Isle jumper in The Killing, and back in 2016, high-street retailers struggled to keep up with demand for replicas of Marcella's own fur-trimmed casual parka. So does the coat make a reappearance this series?

Anna Friel stars in Marcella, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
24 Hours in Police Custody
Channel 4, 9pm
The return of the programme that follows the work of Bedfordshire Police around-the-clock, with enquiries covered from the cells at Luton to the operational heart of major cases. The first edition goes behind the scenes of a major investigation into an allegation of police corruption, with the unprecedented access given by the police meaning that cameras are allowed to document all of the twists and turns of the case as detectives track down, arrest and then charge one of their fellow officers.

TUESDAY
The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies
Channel 5, 8pm
As a nation we're obsessed with dogs, so little wonder this series featuring the QI veteran has been so successful over the years. Now it's back for a sixth run, and once more the heart-warming documentary profiles RSPCA officers, including Sarah Gardener. She enters one of the largest multi-dog households ever seen. Cameras also follow Anthony Pulfer, who attempts to help six dogs caught in a house fire in south east London, and there's a happy ending for two dogs left in the lurch by their owner.

Shetland
BBC1, 9pm
As the eponymous region is relatively small, there are only so many places killers can run - the airport or the coast. So Jimmy Perez has an easier job than some TV detectives. Or does he? Considering the problems he's faced over the years, one of Shetland's most amiable detectives is beset by no end of bad luck, so hopefully he'll get a break in the latest offering. The hunt is on for Malone's attacker, Tosh investigates Forst Energy in the serch for Sally's killer, and DNA in the Kilmuir case yields a surprising result. Good support comes from Alison O'Donnell.

Working for Weinstein
Channel 4, 10pm
For years the Weinstein Company and Miramax were film brands synonymous with quality productions. And then everything changed. Under criminal investigation in Britain and the US, expelled from Bafta and the Academy of Motion Pictures, Harvey Weinstein's fall from grace has been swift since allegations of sexual abuse and harassment emerged against him last October. This documentary hears testimony from those who worked with him across 30 years of British film, and investigates how he kept his accusers quiet for decades.

WEDNESDAY
The BRIT Awards 2018
ITV, 8pm
The all-conquering Ed Sheeran may have dominated the charts on both sides of the Atlantic over the past 12 months, but tonight he could well be upstaged by a 22-year-old breakthrough pop star from London. Dua Lipa, who scored a huge summer hit with New Rules, has earned the most nominations at the 2018 Brit awards, receiving nods in the British Female Solo Artist, Breakthrough Act, Single, Video and British Album. Another one of the biggest sellers of 2017, Sam Smith's The Thrill of it All, has been completely shut out of the nominations. But the good news for his fans though is that he is confirmed to perform, as are the likes of Foo Fighters, Justin Timberlake and Rita Ora. Finally, new host Jack Whitehall has been brought in to inject some risque humour into proceedings.

The BRIT Awards 2018, Wednesday, ITV, 8pm

THURSDAY
Girls on the Edge
BBC2, 9pm
Observational documentary following three girls who have been sectioned under the Mental Health Act to prevent them from harming themselves. Their detainment is indefinite and the film explores the impact on them, their siblings and their parents, who do not know when their children will be allowed home. They include a 17-year-old who hopes to be discharged before her 18th birthday and a 16-year-old whose mother is desperate to have her home - but is worried about having the responsibility of keeping her daughter safe once more.

FRIDAY
Live Six Nations Rugby Union
BBC1, 7.30pm
France v Italy (Kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the match from the third round of fixtures, which takes place at Orange Velodrome in Marseille.

6-10 MARCH
QUARTET
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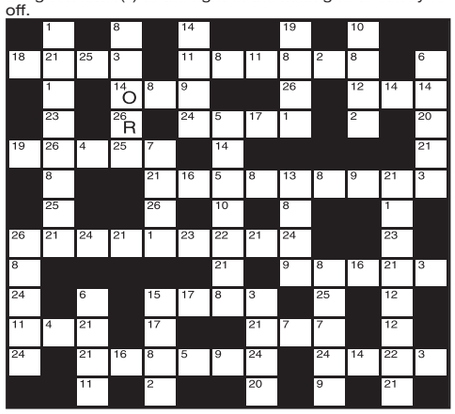
BRAIN GYM

No.467

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



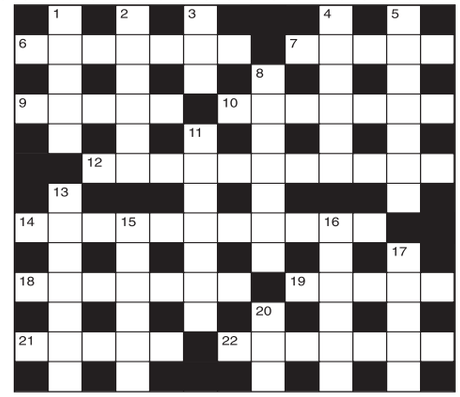
1	14 O
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26 R

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 P	2 F	3 S	4 Y	5 V	6 N	7 G	8 E	9 T	10 B	11 I	12 M	13 W
14 U	15 Q	16 J	17 X	18 A	19 H	20 Z	21 C	22 K	23 D	24 O	25 L	26 R

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Club which may improve the flow of writing (7)
7. Passed a writer in the street (5)
9. One taking part (5)
10. Settled for having the team in red (7)
12. Be likely to profit by a rise? (5,2,4)
14. Not an offence, but a solicitor may be consulted about it (5,6)
18. Invest capital, perhaps? (7)
19. Look well on (5)
21. Colour an Irishman goes about in (5)
22. Declining music for a song (7)

Down

1. You can put it on a horse that's a sure thing (5)
2. Not quite a fifty majority (6)
3. A small court of law (3)
4. Bound over for three months (6)
5. Succeed with a will in their resolve (7)
8. Willingly die? (7)
11. General form of increase (7)
13. Some leavers reform (7)
15. Spoils a signal and gets into a row (6)
16. Not even a strange thing (6)
17. Charles I was an old woman! (5)
20. Hardened bunch (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

6. Wretched (7)
7. She-fox (5)
9. First-rate (5)
10. Advise (7)
12. Remonstrate (11)
14. Prodigal (11)
18. Fluent (7)
19. Flood (5)
21. Ardent (5)
22. Shortage (7)

Down

1. Truck (5)
2. Culmination (6)
3. Globe (3)
4. Indication (6)
5. Keepsake (7)
8. House (7)
11. Summon (7)
13. Elucidate (7)
15. Recompense (6)
16. Serviette (6)
17. Garret (5)
20. Not many (3)

Sudoku

			4		3		1	
5			2	1			9	
		1			5	8		
1				9		5	4	
		6			8			2
	2	7		6				3
		5	1			4		
	6			3	4			1
	1		6		7		3	

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	4	9	5	6	8	7	2	3
8	2	7	3	1	4	6	9	5
3	5	6	7	2	9	8	4	1
7	6	8	9	5	1	4	3	2
5	3	1	4	7	2	9	8	6
4	9	2	6	8	3	1	5	7
9	7	5	2	4	6	3	1	8
6	8	4	1	3	5	2	7	9
2	1	3	8	9	7	5	6	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Grounds; 7 Umber; 9 Car; 10 Ordinance; 12 Grasscutter; 15 Under his hat; 17 Willpower; 19 Rot; 21 Steer; 22 Malaise. Down: 1 Break; 2 Out; 3 Oder; 4 Impartial; 5 Teacher; 8 Discus; 11 Orderlies; 13 School; 14 Anxiety; 16 Loose; 18 Elan; 20 Lay.
QUICK - Across: 6 Heathen; 7 Loyal; 9 Age; 10 Imprudent; 12 Second-class; 15 Infantrymen; 17 Continual; 19 Pry; 21 Acute; 22 Astound. Down: 1 Feign; 2 Sty; 3 Deem; 4 Gondolier; 5 Earnest; 8 Friday; 11 Devastate; 13 Outing; 14 Invoice; 16 Brine; 18 Also; 20 Rot.

Quiz

1. Which delicacy comes in American, Norway and spiny varieties?
2. Which composer was Richard Wagner's father-in-law?
3. How is the laughing jackass also known?
4. What was Thomas Edison's middle name?
5. Who was Lynne Frederick's first husband?
6. Which Yorkshire town includes the remains of the castle where Richard II died?
7. What type of edible plant is laver?
8. What is a skink?
9. In which sport are the Swaythling and Corbillon Cups contested?
10. Which dreamer was the creation of US humorist James Thurber?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Bernard; 2 Foreign Secretary; 3 Pool; 4 David Langton; 5 Scrofula; 6 Charlie Chaplin; 7 Mermaid; 8 Rosh Hashanah; 9 George VI; 10 Lerner and Loewe.

Niner: SIDETRACK

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

4389 gives grime,
1726 gives more grime,
5834 gives residue.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Stone me, this is really something!

THEY arrived in their coachloads, packing the car parks and lining the streets. I know this area of France is beautiful but we were curious to see what this attraction was.

We soon spotted the answer – hundreds of stones lined up- they are called the alignments and date back centuries. What they are exactly and why they are all there no-one seems to really know. It is believed they have a religious or spiritual link and they certainly draw the crowds – at all times of the day.

We were lucky to be staying at a stunning Castels site near Carnac in Brittany, just across the road from the stones so we had a bird's eye view. No, we had not chosen that site for that reason – in fact this was just another lovely surprise at the stunning La Grand Metaire site.

Idyllic pool setting for adults and children

Just some of the many popular alignments

RELAXED

We arrived early evening after a very relaxing Brittany Ferries crossing from Plymouth to Roscoff, the perfect crossing for the area as it was a relatively short drive to the site – just over two hours.

And with a cabin with a television we could relax and watch a bit of the tennis on TV before we docked. Even possible to have a shower in the cabin so you can start the journey feeling refreshed.

We have travelled to France many times over the years And one thing we always comment on is the roads. On our way to Carnac we encountered no holds up – nothing, like the M5 or M6 – and very very few potholes. What a luxury!

We were child and grandchild free for the week but for families there is plenty to entertain younger ones with zip wires, pony rides, pools with slides, indoor pool – just in case of rain – although the weather was lovely while we were there, tennis, mini golf etc.

And the entertainments team excelled themselves with shows every night in the bar or the ampitheatre.

There were so many lovely areas close to the site and as we had hire bikes for the week it was a great way to tour around. A short ride took us into the centre of Carnac where the Sunday market is bustling with both the locals and tourists and Carnac Plage, full of bars and shops. Further afield we ventured into Trinite sur Mer a lovely tourist spot with a huge port, and on to the quaint village of Plouharnel.

A little bit furher afield and back to four wheels now took us to the walled city of Vannes where we picnicked by the riverside and Auray – the old and the new areas. Parking no problem and very cheap.

Back to the site where we enjoyed morning tennis and evening petangue and popped to see the on-site animal collection with goats, chicken and the endearing alpacas.... but do not feed!

Our very modern mobile home was in the perfect spot, a secluded corner with plenty of space and its own BQ so we could eat out every night and sip – no gulp down – lots of the lovely, very cheap, French wine. The site also offers pitches for tents.

The first night we were greeted at our emplacement by a bunch of pirates, not scary though just a plug for that night's show. The whole site staff, entertainers etc, were very helpful and provided tips, maps etc on places to visit. I can speak some French but hardly needed to as their English was so good. A lovely holiday, so well looked after and entertained, who could ask for more and my love of France just gets stronger.

SUE ATTWATER

FACTFILE

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Created in 1959 Les Castels is a collection of 32 four and five star glamping sites across France offering a wide choice of accommodation with everything from chalets and mobile homes to tree houses, gypsy caravans, houses on stilts and apartments. The facilities and entertainment vary from site to site, no two are alike, however one thing that unifies the group as a whole is the Les Castels environmental approach. Visit http://www.camping-castels.co.uk

Brittany Ferries operates the longer routes from Portsmouth, Poole and Plymouth direct to Brittany and Normandy saving miles of unnecessary and costly driving. Travel overnight by luxury cruise-ferry in the comfort of your own cabin with en-suite facilities or be whisked across the Channel in as little as 3 hours. We travelled from Plymouth to Roscoff and back, on this route, mid-season fares start from £293 for a car+2, including en-suite cabin on the outward overnight crossing. Book online at www.brittanyferries.com or call 0330 159 7000.

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Well presented bungalow with a private garden

In a superb cul-de-sac position, 6 Maidensbridge Drive, Wall Heath, Dudley, is a very well presented detached bungalow with a level, sunny and private rear garden.

It is for sale through Taylors at £239,950.

Having a generous and well proportioned layout, with gas central heating and double glazing, its accommodation includes an entrance porch, a large reception hall with doors leading off to all accommodation, a large lounge which overlooks the private rear garden, a breakfast kitchen, a lean to conservatory, two double bedrooms and a shower room with a separate WC.

The property is set back beyond the low maintenance front garden with a front/side driveway and garage. Maidensbridge Drive is in a small residential cul-de-sac which is much sought after and, whilst pleasantly tucked away, is within easy reach from regular public transport services and Wall Heath's friendly village shops, restaurants and other amenities.

In more detail the entrance porch has tiled flooring. The large reception hall has a large built-in storage.cloaks cupboard which houses the Vaillant combination boiler and provides storage space and has a window to the side.

Impressively large, the lounge has a window to the front, a door to the rear garden, windows to the side, a living flame gas fire with a feature Adam style fireplace surround and coving to the ceiling.

Bedroom one has fitted wardrobes, a window to the front and coving to the ceiling.

Another double room, bedroom two has a window to the front and coving to the ceiling.

The shower room features a corner shower cubicle, full width fitted furniture which includes a wash basin and cupboard storage space, full height tiling to the walls and a patterned window to the side.

Outside, alongside the home is a long front/side driveway which provides off road parking and the side driveway is shared with the neighbouring property and provides access to the garage. The rear gaden is very private and laid out to be low maintenance.

WALL HEATH £239,950

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TEL: 01384 401777
EMAIL: kingswinford@taylors-estateagents.co.uk

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BLOXWICH

£229,950 <<<

This very well-presented detached family home in Field Road, Bloxwich, Walsall, lies in a popular area, close to local amenities, shops and schools.

It is for sale through Webbs Estate Agents at £229,950.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a lounge, a dining room, a conservatory, a kitchen, a utility room and a guest WC to the ground floor. To the first floor there are four bedrooms with an en-suite to the master and a family bathroom. Outside there is a generous driveway, an integral garage and private landscaped gardens.

In more detail the entrance hallway has stairs off to the first floor. The lounge has a bay window to the front, a feature fireplace with a gas fire and doors to the dining room and kitchen. The dining room has patio doors to the conservatory, which in turn has French doors to the garden.

Call Webbs on 01922 663399.

Deceptively spacious three-bedroom house

WALSALL

£225,000

Deceptively spacious, this well-presented and deceptively spacious family home in Broadstone Avenue, Bloxwich, Walsall, is for sale through Webbs Estate Agents at £225,000.

Situated in a popular location, it is close to all local amenities, shops and schools. Its accommodation briefly comprises a porch, a through hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, sun room, three bedrooms and a bathroom.

Externally there is a side garage, generous gardens and a driveway.

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Considering Buying at Auction? Call for your FREE Catalogue

Auctioneers of Residential and Commercial Property, Land and Development Opportunities

Tel: 0121 247 2233 or email:auctions@cottons.co.uk

www.cottons.co.uk

Semi-detached modern property in cul-de-sac

Positioned at the bottom of a cul-de-sac, 12 Jubilee Close in Great Wyrley is an extremely well-presented three-bedroomed semi-detached modern house.

It is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £169,950.

It is situated in the Great Wyrley area of Walsall. The home itself briefly comprises an entrance hallway, kitchen and a open plan lounge/diner to the ground floor with the three bedrooms and a bathroom to the first floor.

GREAT WYRLEY

£169,950

To the front there is a driveway which leads to the garage. There is access from the side of the home to the low maintenance rear garden.

An internal viewing is recommended in order to fully appreciate all this home has to offer.

For further information, or to book a viewing, contact DB Roberts & Partners on 01543 469966 or visit www.dbroberts.co.uk

Classified Ads

Buy Local, **Sell** Local

Funeral Directors

Turn To Us For Help and Support

In your time of need we'll take care of all the funeral arrangements.

- Est. 1907
- 24 hour service

G. Gibbs
Funeral Directors
44 All Saints Way
West Bromwich B71 1PZ
0121 553 0442
Dignity Caring Funeral Services
Part of Dignity plc. A British Company.

1 Family

Elderly & Disabled

DAYTONA CARECO
Scooter and charger. Used only a few times, in excellent condition.
£425 ono
Cannock 07534 176831

ELECTRIC PRIDE
Go Chair, new model. Only six months old c/w charger. Excellent condition.
£425 ono.
Cannock 07534 176831

MOBILITY SCOOTER
Elite GoGo Sport. Cost £895 new. Full service history and paperwork. Recent new battery pack and charger. Excellent condition.
£395.
01902 565456.

MOBILITY SCOOTER
Four wheels, easily transportable in small car.
Real bargain £260.
0121 440 2867 / 07804 239956.
Can deliver.

2 Leisure Time

Boats & Water Sports

OUTBOARD MOTOR WANTED, anything considered, reasonably priced. 01922 492321.

Caravans Wanted

All Caravans Wanted
Any Age or Condition
CASH * WAITING
Immediate collection
Call Bill on 07825 325 913

Caravans/ Motorhomes

CARAVAN for sale, North Wales, must go, fees paid till 2019. Quick sale, mint condition. 07590 124226.

AVONDALE OSPREY 2000
2-Berth.
Beautiful condition.
Full awning.
All accessories.
Ready to go.
Sale due to ill health.
£2,500 ono.
0121 568 7442 after 3pm.

LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME
On Burnham on Sea Holiday Village. Swimming pools, owners lounge, live lounge. Fishing lakes, includes site fees. Insurance and water rates.
£31,000 ono.
07794 856860.

STATIC CARAVAN
ABI Brisbane, 36 x 12, 2 bed, 2007, DG, CH, en suite, in good condition, price includes balconies. To be moved off site. More pics available.
£10,000 ono.
01902 605337.

Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

3 Home & Services

what's on

Antique Fairs

ANTIQUE/ VINTAGE FAIR
CALFHEATH HALL, CALFHEATH
CANNOCK, WV10 7DW
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18TH
9 AM - 3 PM
07783 680 627

Book Fair

BOOK FAIR Kinver Community Centre, DY7 6ER, inc postcards. **Sunday 18th February.** Also Bromsgrove first & last Friday each month. Est 1979, Waverley. Next Antique Fair MAR 4th. Home made refreshments. 0121 550 4381.

Furniture

ALMOST NEW Willowbrook Coniston 2 power assisted armchairs, 2 seater settee, green, unused, bought 2015, £250ono 0121 588 2194.

FURNITURE NOT SOLD? Donate it to Katharine House Hospice. We collect for free. Telephone Cannock 01543 466885, Stafford 01785 247630, House clearance service 01785 760715.

OAK CABINET, with Kenwood multimedia system, five speakers and Technics turntable, excellent condition, £300. 01922 451305.

RIMINI DUAL motor 2 power assisted chairs, with two seater sofa to match, bought 2015, amost new, £250. o.n.o. 0121 588 2194.

GREAT BARGAIN
OUR PAIN YOUR GAIN
Just delivered January 30, 2.5 and 2 seater Dallas Power recliner sofas, for sale at half price paid, receipts available.
Only £941 the pair.
Genuine new, not refurbished, too large for our room. Manufacturer HTL Int. Range 9265 Billy Joe, Dallas Suede leather look, colour hazelnut.
For viewing and detail call 01785 226846 (Stafford).

Furniture not sold, why not donate it?
katharine house hospice
Reg charity number: 1011712
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01785 760715
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

Household Appliances

A MUST CLEAR OUT FOR NEW STOCK
AUTOS FROM £89, COOKERS, FRIDGE FREEZERS, ALL DOMESTIC APPLIANCES AT SALE PRICE!
Past & Present
24 - 26 church street, Bilston (opposite town hall).
01902 403770

In Your Garden

6x5 Lap Panels
£17 each (inc vat)
WS3 2BQ
Bloxwich Fencing Ltd
or 01922 712184

BLOXWICH FENCING
Supply and Fit or DIY
Credit cards taken • Free quotes WS3 2BQ
01922 712184

CHESTNUT SHEDS AND FENCING LTD
Manufacturers and Suppliers of Heavy Duty Fully Tanalised Sheds, Summerhouses & All Garden Buildings.
Super Quality/Competitive Prices
Bespoke Buildings Fitting Available
Unit 17, Oak Street, Quarry Bank DY5 2JH
01384 913422/01384 569779
www.chestnutshedsandfencing.co.uk

Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

ASH RECLAMATION
All reclaimed building materials
UPVC doors and windows
New and Used
Gatehouse Trading Est. Lichfield Road, Brownhills, WS8 6JZ
01543 453222
07956 627367

✔ CASH PAID ✔
£300+ PER OUNCE
FOR 9 CARAT GOLD.
ANY AMOUNT COLLECTED!
Lady Buyer
gold coins, pre - 47 silver coins, watches, costume jewellery, porcelain, any oriental items, old brass items, any silver items, War medals military etc.
HOUSE CLEARANCES!
Call: 01922 495066 or 07971 783206

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Items Wanted

ERCOL furniture wanted any age or condition considered cash paid prompt collection 01902 755860

MUSIC MEMORABILIA wanted old 1960s, 70s gig posters, flyers, programmes, blues, rock, punk, soul, good cash paid 07986 729197.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

WANTED
VINTAGE TOYS
Star Wars, He-Man, Ghost Busters, Ninja Turtles, Corgi or Dinky.
All vintage toys considered.
Good prices paid.
Unleash the cash in your loft.
Call Tony on 07812 903338.

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

PC's, Laptops & Accessories

CLIENT COMPUTERS Certified technician and microsoft partner. Repair and maintain laptops and pcs. Virus removal, broken screens, wifi, windows problem etc. Laptops available. 0121 556 9481

CLIENT COMPUTERS
Certified technician & Microsoft partner.
Repair & maintain laptops and PCs. In West Midlands.
Virus removal, broken screens, wifi.
Windows problems etc.
Home visits or bring to me.
Long established.
Laptops available.
0121 556 9481

specialists at your service

Aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS Checkatrade.com
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"
Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Bathrooms

BATHROOM DESIGN All bathrooms fitted, tiling, flooring, complete bathrooms: 07850 382548.

Building Services

APPROVED CONTRACTOR
All damp problems, roofing, all building & all plastering work.
Free quotes 07538 118034 or 01902 752161.

G & D BUILDERS
Over 35 years exp
All aspects of building work
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
All work guaranteed
07837 994465 / 01902 579592

Building Supplies

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone, Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

Carpentry & Joinery

SPR CARPENTRY Six internal pre-primed doors fully fitted from £370. 0121 5322672 or 07958 552625.

Carpet Fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

Driveways & Patios

P.W DRIVEWAYS
The Block Paving Specialists.
Patios, Driveways, Pathways etc.
SPECIAL OFFER £50 PSM (JANUARY ONLY)
Free Quotes & Advice
0800 747 1435

Fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£695**
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."
Michael- Portway Fencing

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

C B SHEDS & FENCING
We supply & fit. Free quotes.
Call: 01922 720270
We also supply sleepers and decking

Garage Conversions

ALL GARAGE CONVERSIONS CATERED FOR OAP discounts, Free quotes call 07522 643706

Gardening Services

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

Gas Fitting

GAS SERVICES
- Boilers • Cookers
- Fires • Gas Checks
- Landlord Certificates
- Gas Leaks Traced

Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

Electricians

Express & Star
ELECTRICIANS!
CLAIM YOUR FREE ADVERT
(T&Cs Apply)
Call Claire Smith: 01902 319661
claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk

Gates

ALL METAL GATES,RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

DARLASTON FABS 30 years exp in supplying/ fitting gates and railings. Free quotes: 07497 667752.

Handyman Services

HANDY MAN - Most trades, plumbing, heating, gardening & decorating. Gutter clean no ladders, free quotes call 07850 559315.

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

House Clearances

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021**

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE
Professional family run business
House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

Kitchen Fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER Over 20 years experience. Call 07881 654757 or 01543 373233.

Lock Services

LOCKRITE local father and daughter locksmiths, lock-outs, broken locks, UPVC specialist, 24hr service. 01922 780078.

Plans Prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

PROFESSIONAL HAND ink detailed drawings prepared. 01922 684503/ 07730 888063.

Plastering

MINT PLASTERING
For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200
30 years experience.
Free quotes. All work guaranteed
01543 327130 / 07519 694516

MINT PLASTERING & rendering 30 yrs exp. All work guaranteed. 01543 327130 or 07519 694516.

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas, Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

Plumbing & Heating

A.A HEATING & PLUMBING All gas work. Install/ Service/ Repair. Free quotes call: 07540 950588.

ALL PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN
No job too large. All work guaranteed.
Call Will for a free quote
07521 411108

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call Will for a free quote on: 07521 411108.

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227.

KT REMOVALS 12 yrs exp. Single items to full load removals. Local / distance. Call Ric: 07771 727119.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

Roofing

Doctor
FLAT ROOF SPECIALIST
ALL ROOFING WORK UNDERTAKEN
Tile replacement/Chimney pointing
Fascias & Guttering
01902 562393

MG ROOFING
Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs, Fascias and Gutters.
Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.
www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk

Rubbish Removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

Skip Hire

A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

AAA SKIP HIRE all sizes available, competitive prices : 01922 711411 (option 2) or 07592 940556.

GOLDSHILL SKIP & SELF DELIVERIES
BRING YOUR WASTE TO US
(any size vehicle)
General, green, wood (can work out cheaper than a skip)
OR
HIRE A SKIP FROM US -
Phone for prices
0121 557 3346
82 Pikehelve Street, West Bromwich, B70 0TU

STONES SKIP HIRE
0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875
www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

4 Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

5 Business & Farming

Commercial Premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

Business Opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

Business Services

BUDGET SOCIAL MEDIA Need help with social media posts and tweets to advertise your business' or charity. Call Tony at Mud Bug Media 07870 686304

6 Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

J9 Accommodation
NO DEPOSIT
★MOVE IN TODAY★
Studios *from* £90pw*
Rooms *from* £65pw*
*Includes Most Bills
CHECK WEBSITE FOR LIVE LIST
Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme
01902 213121
J9accommodation.com

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

Properties Wanted

We buy houses
Sell your house fast
- avoid repossession
- behind on payments
- job relocation
- unwanted inheritance
What more - we buy in any condition
No estate agent fees
We pay all your legal fees
ACT NOW !
Contact us on :
07796 801219 / 07988 882090

IT'S FREE
IT'S EASY
*Advertise any item FREE up to the value of £250 go to:
www.expressandstar.com/bookanad
*T&C's apply
FreeAds

Properties Wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!
FAST 4 Your House CASH
BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
You agree the price, we buy the house...
• NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
• FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION
0800 999 999 6
01384 500 500
30 yrs
www.black-countryhomes.co.uk * subject to terms

CASH NOW Wolverhampton properties **FOR YOUR HOUSE**
UP TO £25,000 CASH ADVANCE NOW (in 24hrs)
• Free Solicitors • No Fees • Any House • Any Condition
We can buy your house in 2 days
0800 389 6788 01902 628047
Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week
Terms applicable

WE BUY ANY HOUSE CASH
CALL US FREE 24 Hours/ 7days
0800 246 1047
- All Your Costs Paid & No Selling Fees
- We Buy Any Area & Any Condition
- STOP Repossession/Eviction
- Release Your Equity Today
GET UP TO £20,000 CASH ADVANCE
5 STAR REVIEWS
www.UKFASTSALE.co.uk
UKFastSale.co.uk
FREE Solicitors, FREE Survey, FREE Home Removals, FREE EPC

Yes! HOMEBUYERS
THE EASY WAY TO SELL YOUR HOUSE
We Buy Houses For Cash
Free Valuation? Yes! No Fees? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
Fast Sale? Yes! Any House? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!
Get your FREE, instant cash offer today!
The Property Ombudsman
Call 0121 663 1797
or text "Cash" to 66777 yeshomebuyers.com

7 Jobs

Drivers

CLASS 2 DRIVER required. Minimum 5 years experience. Local & distance.Tel: 0121 557 1776.

Engineering

A Busy Engineering machine shop in West Bromwich is looking for CNC Programmer / Operator

to Produce machined parts by programming, setting up, and operating CNC Milling machines with Heidenhain and Haas controls and CNC lathes with Fanuc controls. We produce 1 off's to small batch quantities. rate of pay is negotiable based on experience.

please send your CV to info@hseng.co.uk or call 0121 520 9655, No agencies.

MAINTENANCE/ ELECTRICAL ENGINEER.

Experience of working in a busy manufacturing environment would be advantageous as our core business is metal presswork and assemblies.

Apply in writing to

D R B Engineering Ltd 71-75 NEW SUMMER ST, BIRMINGHAM B19 3TE, U.K.

or email CV to sophie@ drbengineering.com

Building & Construction

PAINT SPRAYER
required for busy well established architectural metalwork company in **Smethwick**
Preparing and coating with primers & top coats. Metalwork including balustrades, handrails, staircase carriages, steel sections, balcony frames etc.

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
Call 0121 507 8400

Courses

BIRMINGHAM: 5-6 May and 5-6 September
STOKE: 6-7 August TELFORD: 8-9 August
WOLVERHAMPTON: 8-9 March & 25-26 July
Accredited ocn Training

Learn how to take blood
TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST
Introduction to Phlebotomy
TWO DAY COURSE - NATIONALLY RECOGNISED
- Allied Healthcare Career Path
- Accredited (advanced) qualification
- No previous experience required

For more info. or to book online: www.geopace.com
High demand in: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - MOD - Research

Full Time General

buds

Job Opportunity
BUDS Volunteer Development Manager

BUDS is an independent Charity who provide services for people diagnosed with Dementia, their Carers and families within the Borough of Sandwell. Volunteers are a vital element in supporting our Staff to ensure we provide high quality services.

We seek an individual with excellent communication and listening skills. Strong interpersonal skills are required to develop and manage the Volunteer Programme.

You will manage all elements of Volunteering including promotion, recruitment and retention of Volunteers. Manage a training programme and provide support to a diverse range of people.

You need to be passionate about supporting people diagnosed with Dementia and have a good understanding of Dementia.

You need good administrative and record keeping skills. Good IT and presentation skills are required.

You will be required to organise and attend promotional opportunities and work collaboratively with other organisations.

This post requires travel within the Borough of Sandwell along with some occasional evening and weekend work.

Working hours are 35 hours per week Monday to Friday and based at the BUDS office at Great Bridge Library, Sheepwash Lane, DY4 7JF.

Salary: £21,000 per annum.

This post is subject to a Basic DBS check. This post is funded by Lloyds Bank Foundation.

Please note CV's are not accepted.

Applications are invited by requesting an application pack: Telephone our office on 0121 565 3721, email: info@buds.co.uk or write to BUDS, Great Bridge Library, Sheepwash Lane, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 7JF. For an informal discussion please contact Alison Pugh, Director of BUDS: 0121 565 3721 or email: alison.pugh@buds.co.uk

Registered Charity No 1133484 Company Limited by Guarantee in England & Wales No 06814962

Closing date for the application is Monday 26th February 2018 at 4pm.
Interview date to be arranged.

www.buds.co.uk https://www.facebook.com/budsandwell/ https://twitter.com/B_U_D_S

We are a Surfacing, Road Marking & Fencing Contractor located in the West Midlands and we are looking to appoint a

Roller Driver - Experienced Labourer
in our Surfacing department.

This is a full time PAYE position and you will be required to work occasional weekends.

The position will generally consist of the following requirements:

Responsibilities and Duties
- Observe all Health and Safety requirements and instructions at site.
- Driving any plant / equipment as instructed, primarily a Roller.
- Completion of paperwork and reports as instructed.
- Follow instructions from Site Supervisor.
- Ensure the work is carried out within the deadlines, safely, efficiently, and to relay information accurately to the Site Supervisor.
- Wear the appropriate PPE.
- Ideally based within 30 minutes travelling distance of Kings Norton, Birmingham.

Qualifications and Skills
- 1+ year Roller driving experience
- Full UK driving license.
- Works transport will be provided.
- Valid relevant CSCS and CPCS cards.
- Dumper driving experience/certificates would be advantageous but further training will be provided

Benefits
- Pension Scheme
- Performance-related bonus scheme.
- 30 days holiday including bank holidays.
- Opportunity to progress.

Required licences or certifications:
- CPCS (Construction Plant Competence Scheme)
- Driver's License
- CSCS card

To apply please contact us using the following methods:
Email: jo.moore@durolas.co.uk
Telephone: 0121 458 7424
Address: Durolas (Contractors) Ltd, 95 Frances Road, Kings Norton, B30 3DU

8 Motoring

Cars Over £1500

PRESTIGE

MERCEDES BENZ
CLK 2.7D, 2003, silver metallic, leather interior, sat nav, AMG alloys, new tyres fitted 78,000 miles. MoT, full service history.
Bargain £2,500
01543 451892
07790 884466.

Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Cars Under £1500

LOW MILEAGE

CHEVROLET TACUMA
5 seater,
55 plate,
blue,
only 52,000 miles,
four new tyres.
MoT'd till May.
£300 no offers.
0121 531 0240.
Genine calls only please.

THE APPRENTICESHIP SHOW
THE JOB BOX
Apprenticeships are open to ALL ages
Come and find out how they could work for you
Thursday 8 March 2018
The International Centre, Telford
12noon - 7.30pm Last entry 7pm

www.telfordjobbox.co.uk/tas18
Showcasing 100's of apprenticeships opportunities across Telford and Wrekin, Shropshire, The West Midlands and beyond.
ARMY BE THE BEST · University of Wolverhampton · STAR Academies Trust · Shropshire Council · a co-operative council · Telford & Wrekin COUNCIL

Cars Under £1500

PEUGEOT 207 1.4S
2007, 94,699 miles, black, electric windows, air con, MoT, CD, recent full service, water pump, cambelt and head gasket, very clean and ready to go.
£1,325 ono.
07969 969377.

SKODA FABIA DIESEL
03 reg.
5 dr, Classic.
7 months MoT.
157,200 miles.
Very clean inside and out.
Service History.
Owned for last 8 years.
Silver.
£395.
01902 471098 / 07508 081543.

Commercial Vehicles

MUST BE SEEN

VAUXHALL COMBO 1300cc
2012,
12 months MoT,
no advisories,
118,000 miles,
very good condition.
£3,300
01889 570265 / 07975 672997.

Scrap Vehicles

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

Scrap Vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

Vehicles Wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

WANTED
SMALL CAR
Must be in good condition, with MoT.
Up to £1,000 paid.
Telephone 07961 589264.

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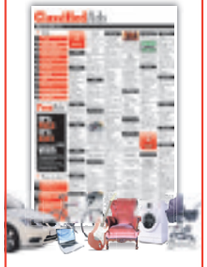

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Fiesta partys on and EcoSport is on a roll

The new EcoSport is one of the most affordable of the compact SUVs, and comes with a bold new look

Ford's Fiesta is Britain's favourite – a best-seller for more than 40 years and still number one with the car buying public.

To date it has notched up more than 16 million buyers, and the latest model is still winning awards.

That makes it the ideal platform on which to base another new model, the EcoSport, which competes in the fast-growing SUV market. Both have been updated and improved in recent months.

Since it first appeared in 1976, the Fiesta has gone through seven generations of improvements maing it bigger, better equipped and safer, with petrol and diesel engines to suit whether you want better than 88mpg economy of the 75PS diesel or the award-winning 1.0 petrol turbo, capable of 0 to 62mph in under ten seconds and of averaging 65mpg. A 200Ps high performance Fiesta ST is on the way, too. A wide range of trim levels ensures that there is a Fiesta to suit every pocket, right up to the Vignale flagship, bringing new levels of luxury to the supermini class.

The latest model has already carryied off coveted awards including Carbuyer's Car of the Year, BBC TopGear magazine's Supermini of the Year and Best Budget car at the Women's World Car of the Year awards.

These successes come hot on the heels of What Car? magazine's award for the outgoing Ford Fiesta Best Small Car in its Used Car of the Year Awards.

The latest Ford Fiesta is the best yet

Car-review website editor Stuart Milne said: "It is Britain's favourite car year in, year out, and the latest Ford Fiesta is the best yet. It looks great inside and out and packs plenty of big-car features into its compact dimensions. Buyers can choose from tremendous audio upgrades, autonomous driving features and levels of luxury in the top-spec Vignale –unthinkable a few years ago. The new Fiesta boasts more interior space and safety kit than ever before, plus it is a fantastically fun car to drive. With attributes like this, it is no wonder we have named the new Ford Fiesta Carbuyer Car of the Year 2018."

The new EcoSport is one of the most affordable of the compact SUVs, and comes with a bold new look, new equipment and a revised suspension to give drivers an improved ride and handling.

There's more choice in the range, too, with the addition of a new 1.5 litre EcoBlue turbo diesel engine and, with that, the option of Ford's Intelligent All-Wheel Drive system, which can adjust the torque split between the axles to the extent that 50 per cent is directed to the rear almost instantaneously.

The 1.5-litre EcoBlue diesel engine is designed to deliver higher power for improved performance, alongside reduced CO2 emissions – as low as 107g/km.

It also shares the 1.0 litre, 125Ps turbocharged petrol engine as the Fiesta, boosted to 140Ps in the sportily-trimmed ST-Line – another addition to the range.

The new EcoSport delivers driver assistance technologies including SYNC 3 connectivity, cruise control with adjustable speed-limiter and rear view camera.

A user-centric, upscale new interior offers a superior occupant experience with floating central eight-inch touchscreen, heated steering wheel and smart stowage solutions including an adjustable boot floor.

The interior features a host of smart stowage solutions, including a new height adjustable boot floor that can be raised to provide concealed storage, or lowered to increase luggage capacity to 334 litres.

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Duncan's first cousin Keith Edwards takes a look the exhibition

Exhibition organiser Jim Cadman from Stourbridge

Visitor Rose Cook signs the book of remembrance

Duncan as a youngster with pals

Edwards in an England cap. He played 18 times for his country

Exhibition kicks off to honour legend Duncan

SPORTING FEATURE

Report by David Cosgrove

AN exhibition in honour of Black Country football great Duncan Edwards has been launched and will run until March 30.

The display includes a special book of remembrance to mark the 60th anniversary this month of the Dudley-born Manchester United and England star's death.

Among the first to sign the book was Tony Whelan, a former Manchester United player and now assistant director of the club's academy.

He was joined by Birmingham teenage prospect Dermot Mee, who is currently in the youth set-up at Old Trafford and hoping to follow in Duncan's footsteps.

The pair made a special trip from Manchester to get a glimpse of the exhibition in Duncan's honour. It is being held at Dudley Archives and Local History Centre, near the Black Country Living Museum, and features a host of photographs, press cuttings, memorabilia and football programmes relating to legendary 'Busby Babe'.

Privilege

Mr Whelan said: "We are proud to follow in the footsteps of Duncan. He will be a Manchester United legend forever, and it was a real honour and a privilege to come down today to see this new exhibition."

Dermot said: "Duncan was very special to everyone at Man United throughout his time at the club.

"He has inspired many of us players to continue right to the end, chasing our dreams.

"His story is a special one for me as obviously we're both from a similar neck of the woods, and it would be a dream to follow in his footsteps one day."

United and England icon Duncan was one of eight players who died following the Munich air disaster on February 6, 1958. He died 15 days later on February 21, aged just 21. The book of remembrance forms part of an extended exhibition honouring the footballer.

The museum, which is normally closed on a Sunday, will be open especially from noon to 2pm on February 18 as part of the commemoration.

Edwards in action for Manchester United

It will tie in with a special service of remembrance on the same day at St Francis's Church, where there are two stained glass windows celebrating Duncan's memory.

Around 80 Manchester United fans are expected to travel on the day for the service and to visit the museum, as well as visiting Duncan's grave at Queen's Cross cemetery and stopping off at his statue in the town centre.

A special wall of remembrance is also being set up at the church, where Duncan's funeral was held, for visitors. It will tell the story of his life, from his childhood in Priory Park to his days playing for the Red Devils and England, and was being unveiled at the start of this week. A Duncan Edwards Tribute Dinner will take place at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill on February 21 with special guests including former Manchester United manager Tommy Docherty and European Cup-winning goalkeeper Alex Stepney, as well as members of the Manchester United Former Players Association.

Councillor Dave Tyler, Mayor of Dudley, said: "I would urge anyone who has any memories of Duncan Edwards to get along to this exhibition and put pen to paper in the book. He was a giant of the beautiful game, and he was Dudley born and bred."

In total Duncan made 177 appearances for Manchester United, scoring 21 goals, and playing his part in two league title wins in the mid to late 1950s. Nicknamed 'The Tank', he also won 18 caps for England, netting five times for the national side.

Travelled

He was once famously described by former teammate and best friend Sir Bobby Charlton as "the only player who made me feel inferior".

Duncan and Sir Bobby shared the same digs in Manchester and during National Service near Shrewsbury they travelled together on the train every Friday night for Saturday matches before returning to the Army on Monday.

Sir Bobby said: "Duncan was the complete footballer – a colossus, powerful with his heading ability and unbreakable in the tackle. He would rampage tirelessly across the pitch, had a perfect first touch and was deadly in front of goal."

Sir Bobby, who was pulled from the burning wreckage of the aircraft, has never forgotten those who perished in the disaster. He said: "Almost 60 years have passed since I last saw Duncan when I left hospital in Munich and I still think of him almost every day.

"I am very pleased to be part of this tribute in Dudley that will pay homage to the memory of my friend, team-mate and the greatest footballer I have ever seen."

For further information on any of the events taking place as part of the tribute, log onto www.duncanedwardstribute.com, email jwc@duncanedwardstribute.com or call Jim Cadman on 07971624627.

Admission is free and all items will remain at the centre after it ends.

Stokes buzzing over fight night at Genting

BOXER Josh Stokes is buzzing to get in the ring at the Genting Arena and earn the fifth victory of his burgeoning career. The 24-year-old will compete on BCB Promotions' 'Now Or Never' show on February 23.

It was initially set to be on the undercard of Frankie Gavin's IBO World Welterweight Championship bid. However, that has now been rescheduled for March 24.

West Bromwich light heavyweight Stokes hasn't fought since stopping Latvian Raimonds Sniedze in September last year but believes this will be to his advantage. "I was supposed to fight in December but I wasn't very well, so I couldn't," he said.

"I think the break will have done me good anyway," he added. "I have been working hard in the gym and it has given me a chance to work on a few different things. It is a class show and I cannot wait to get out and box there. I don't think I will be fazed by it."

Tickets, from £40, are available from theticketfactory.com

Kindon guest speaker at Smile for Joel night

FORMER Wolves star Steve Kindon is the guest speaker at a sportsman's dinner in aid of the Smile For Joel charity next month. It takes place at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill on Thursday, March 1.

Tables of 10 are £400 plus VAT with a former player from either Villa, Wolves, Albion, Blues or Walsall on each table.

Event organiser Steve Saul, from Route 39, said: "The support we get from former players from the local clubs is amazing. Last year we raised £6,000 for Smile For Joel and we are looking to top that this year."

Contact Route 39 on 01902 244220 to book places or for more information.

The cause was set up in memory of Tunisia terror attack victims Charles Evans, Joel Richards and Adrian Evans, from Wednesbury, who died in 2015.

Former Wolves winger Kindon is a five-times winner of the Soccer Speaker of the Year award.

Promotion recalled as trio take centre stage

THE manager, captain and Player of the Year from Wolves' historic first promotion to the Premier League are back in Wolverhampton to mark the occasion's 15th anniversary.

Boss Dave Jones, defender Paul Butler and goalkeeper Matt Murray will be at the ECC Sports and Social Club, on Showell Road on March 1.

The 2003 Championship play-off final, a 3-0 win over Sheffield United at Cardiff, will be shown in full before the trio take centre stage.

Jones, aged 61, is back in the area, living at the Bridgnorth home he's retained since his time in charge of Wolves, from January 2001 to November 2004. Murray, 36, is now a pundit after being forced to retire from the game due to injury. He saved a penalty in the play-off final.

Butler left Molineux the following summer and played for Leeds, Milton Keynes Dons and Chester before hanging up his boots in 2009. He's now 45.

Tickets are £10, which includes a buffet and photo opportunity. For more information and to buy, call into the venue or dial 01902 424455.

Exhibition honours Busby Babe Duncan

Page 39

Roberts to captain the Bulls side

BIRMINGHAM have named former first team racer Kyle Roberts as skipper of their Midland Development League side.

The teenager has also been listed as the Brummies' No.8 squad member.

The 18-year-old finished the 2017 season on the injury list after a stint at reserve in the third tier.

Now he's now on his way back to full fitness and co-promoter David Mason is keen to see Roberts give team manager Laurence Rogers a selection headache.

Said Mason: "It's been a much longer recovery period than anyone expected, but it's great to hear about the dedication Kyle has been putting into his fitness work over the winter.

"We always wanted to get him back to the club in some capacity and we thought he was the ideal candidate to captain the Bulls in the MDL. We've made the decision to make him our No.8 in the National League as well."

"The No.8 position will be good for Kyle because he knows if he has some good meetings for the Bulls, he could get a chance in the National League.

Roberts said: "I was really hoping to be back at Birmingham and while I'd have preferred to be in the first team, to be captaining the Bulls is brilliant.

"I'm going to do everything I can to try and work my way back in the first team and I'm looking forward to working with everyone at the Brummies again."

Ductair Electrics Ltd have been confirmed as the Bulls sponsors and Edwards Bathroom Plumbing and Heating Supplies Ltd the main team sponsors.

Hughes makes the cut for first PDC televised contest

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes and Wolverhampton's Wayne Jones will both be a part of the PDC UK Open finals after coming through the qualifiers.

Both finished high enough on the UK Open Order of Merit to ensure they were comfortably among the top 96 who made the cut.

The UK Open finals will take place at Butlins in Minehead from March 2-4 and will be broadcast live on ITV4.

Hughes finished 25th so won't enter until the third round. It's his first televised tournament since joining the PDC, where he's a part of the Challenge Tour after failing to land a Pro Tour card through Qualifying School.

Jones is back on the Pro Tour after winning the 2017 Challenge Tour and enters the UK open finals at the second round stage, after finishing 53rd in the rankings.

The line-up for that phase has already been revealed, with Jones paired against Dudley's Liam Kelly or Luke Humphries.

The 128-player field will be finalised with 32 qualifiers from competitions staged at Rileys Sports Bars.

Sturridge 'devastated' after injury blow

Daniel Sturridge

ALBION striker Daniel Sturridge was left distraught in the dressing room after limping off injured at Chelsea. Club bosses hope he can return for the crucial home game against Huddersfield.

The Liverpool loanee lasted less than three minutes at Stamford Bridge on Monday night before he was forced off with a hamstring problem.

Baggies boss Alan Pardew was hoping he was not out for too long. "It was a blow to lose Danny," he said. "We're hoping it's not too bad. We don't think it's a tear or anything.

"It might keep him out of the FA Cup but he could be back in a couple of weeks.

"He was distraught really, his personality and the way he's worked has been of the highest order, I couldn't speak higher of him. He's absolutely devastated."

Pardew was left rueing Sturridge's injury even more after watching Jay Rodriguez and Salomon Rondon waste gilt-edged chances in front of goal in the 3-0 defeat to the reigning champions.

Chelsea, meanwhile, were clinical in the box and swept the Baggies aside with two goals from Eden Hazard and one from Victor Moses.

Defeat has left the Baggies five points adrift at the bottom of the table and seven from safety.

"When you see the chances that we had it's even more frustrating," said Pardew.

CLUB'S BOSSES GIVEN THE AXE

CHINESE owner Guochuan Lai has this week stunned Albion's top brass by sacking chairman John Williams and chief executive Martin Goodman out of the blue.

Williams and Goodman were on Tuesday given sudden notice of the termination of their contracts and placed on gardening leave with immediate effect.

The double sacking, which came as a shock to both men, has plunged a club staring down the barrel of relegation after one win in 25 league matches into further crisis.

Former long-serving chief executive Mark Jenkins, who was replaced by Goodman at the start of 2017, is returning to the club as CEO and will run the Baggies until the end of the season.

A short statement released around midday on Tuesday – less than 24 hours after a 3-0 defeat at champions Chelsea – said: "These changes follow Albion's poor results this season which currently sees the club at the bottom of the Premier League."

Hovering

It is understood the decision was not made as a result of that defeat.

Lai made the decision partly because Williams and Goodman sacked Tony Pulis, who was seen as a safe pair of hands in China.

When Pulis was fired, Albion were hovering above the relegation zone, but they are now five points adrift at the bottom of the table.

Despite that, head coach Alan Pardew, who has overseen that fall to the foot of league thanks to one win in 13 league matches, is understood to be safe from the axe.

He has taken the squad on a pre-planned trip to Barcelona for some warm weather training ahead of the weekend's FA Cup tie with Southampton.

Technical director Nick Hammond is also expected to keep his job, and there are no plans to unveil a new chairman until the summer.

John Williams, left, and Martin Goodman, have been sacked as chairman and chief executive

Williams was installed in that role when Lai bought the club from Jeremy Peace in August 2016 for nearly £200m and Goodman followed a few months later when Jenkins left. Jenkins was CEO of the Baggies for 14 years, and 10 of those were spent in the Premier League.

He was seen, like Pulis, as a safe pair of hands in China, and Lai wanted him to stay, but Jenkins felt it was the right time to leave.

He now returns to run the club for the final three months of a campaign that has lurched from disaster to disaster.

"There is much to do but for now the focus must solely be on the remaining games of this season," he said, in a short statement issued on Tuesday. Lai, who remains committed to the club, made the decision because of Albion's position in the league.

He bought the club because it was smoothly run and well established in the top tier.

Eco-town developer Lai uses the Premier League brand to win lucrative contracts in China, and he has held Williams and Goodman accountable for taking the club to the brink of relegation and putting that in jeopardy.

Former Blackburn Rovers chief Williams lasted 18 months in his role, and former Stoke director Goodman was in place for just over a year.

Sangha and Holt to fight it out in final

INDI Sangha and Paul Holt will slug it out for the Midlands Area Super Featherweight Title after reaching the final of the inaugural BCB Midlands Boxing Super Series.

The semi-finals took place on Saturday and neither bout disappointed.

The final will be a repeat of their September 2017 fight, in which Sangha recorded a paper thin 58-56 victory.

Wolverhampton resident Sangha eased past Tamworth's Louis Fielding on Saturday evening in the Stadium Suite, Walsall FC.

Sangha justified his favourite tag for the Super Series – sponsored by Grosvenor Casino Walsall – putting Fielding to the sword inside just two rounds.

The second semi-final was equally absorbing but for differing reasons. Birmingham's Paul Holt and Chasetown's Luke Jones went hammer and tongs for six rounds. The contest ebbed and flowed with Jones, the underdog, taking the opening two rounds. The Chasetown man looked in control but, as the fight wore on, Holt sparked into life and ultimately proved too much.

Sangha and Holt will now go toe-to-toe for the Area belt.

Elsewhere, Coventry's Jordan Cooke and Walsall's Rachel Ball were both victorious. Cooke won every round against dangerous Lithuanian Edvina Puplauskas whilst Ball, in only her second professional fight, dispatched Poland's Bojana Libiszewska 60-56.

Net seats for 2019 basketball finals

ONE of basketball's biggest events returns to Birmingham in 2019.

Fans are being urged to guarantee their seat at the 2019 British Basketball Cup Finals at Arena Birmingham.

The programme of events on January 27 will include the WBBL Cup at noon and the BBL Cup Final at 3.30, with the 2019 Dunk Contest sandwiched in between at 2pm.

Tickets are £20.41-£29.45 for children and £28.32-£38.49 for adults (including admin fees and £1.20 facility fee) + £2.55 fulfilment fee per order. They are on sale via www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222.

★★★

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